



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

City Aims to Get J-Church Back on Track

Transit Agency Orders Four-Month Inspection of Line

By Lorraine Sanders

Noe Valley resident Lisa Butterworth lives less than a block from the J-Church streetcar stop at 24th and Church streets. Yet each morning, she walks five blocks downhill from her apartment to reach the 24th Street BART Station. From there, she heads to her job in the Financial District. In the evening, her routine is much the same, except she has to walk uphill to get home.

"I find it so miserable that I never take it," Butterworth says of the J-Church line. "As far as I'm concerned, it doesn't even exist—except when it screws up my television reception when a train goes by my apartment."

Butterworth isn't the only rider frustrated with the J-Church line, which carries an average of 18,700 passengers each weekday along its route from Balboa Park through Noe Valley to the Embarcadero.

"I have often looked online to coordinate with BART, and [the J-Church] often doesn't come when it says it's going to," says Shanna Willner, a Berkeley resident who rides the J-Church line to Noe Valley twice a week.

Riders' frustration with the rail line is hardly unfounded. A recent report from the San Francisco Municipal Transit Agency (SFMTA) identified the J-Church as the city's worst-performing rail line, with an on-time performance record of just 61.9 percent last year. Under Proposition E, passed by voters in 1999,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



Commuters on the J-Church streetcar may arrive home a little quicker this summer, after the city finishes a four-month tune-up of the line's on-time performance. Photo by Pamela Gerard

Terry Lynn Karl: Noe Valley's Champion for Human Rights

By Lorraine Sanders

For almost two decades, Terry Lynn Karl kept the several boxes of papers, photographs, and other documents she'd amassed during her many trips to El Salvador during the 1980s tucked away in her Sanchez Street home. She wasn't quite sure why she kept them. She just knew she had to.

"Something just said, 'Hang on to this, hang on to this,'" says Karl, a Stanford University professor of political science and Latin American studies who has lived in Noe Valley since 1986.

Of course, Karl's boxes weren't filled with the sort of ordinary ephemera one collects over the years. The contents of those boxes, along with Karl's own ex-

periences, led to landmark victories in three major U.S. human rights and war crime trials between 2002 and 2006. One—*Romagoza et al v. Garcia and Vides Casanova*—resulted in the first jury verdict in U.S. history to find war generals guilty of crimes against humanity

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

It Takes a Lot of Neighbors to Design a Village

Residents Come Up with a Master Plan for 24th Street

By Corrie M. Anders

The meetings are over. The poll results are in. And Downtown Noe Valley is well on the way to adopting a long-range design plan that should solidify its reputation as an urban village that is family-friendly, aesthetically attractive, and—dare we say it?—green.

Do you want to see calmer traffic along the 24th Street shopping corridor? It's in the plan. How about street clocks and planter boxes, mini-parks and public art? Also on the drawing board. And what about putting those ugly utility wires underground? Well, we'll have to wait a while on that one.

The master plan for 24th Street, dubbed "An Urban Village Plan," was completed last month following a series of community forums. At the meetings, local residents and merchants massaged three alternative proposals drawn up by an urban design firm under a \$35,000 contract from the Noe Valley Association (NVA).

The firm, Urban Ecology, is writing its final report, which the association will use to help determine how the commercial district should look over the next 20 years or so. The plan preferred by forum participants focuses on the establishment of six "village hubs," gathering spots that would be located along 24th Street at the major intersections of Church, Castro, and Diamond streets, and at three mid-block locations.

"I'm pretty pleased with it," said David Eiland, chairman of the NVA's Green and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Inside this issue...

- Gavin Newsom Admits to Difficulties in Math, Will Seek Tutoring.....60
- See Jane Run Bought Out by See Hilary Run.....58
- Candidate Bragh O'Bama Embraces Irish Roots at Rally at Dubliner Pub.....60
- Maltese Falcon Found on Incanto's Menu.....61
- Heather Mills McCartney Buys Half of Rabat Shoe & Sock Store.....58
- Pro-Oxidants Demand Equal Time.....59

LOCAL GEMS

A Slice of History From the 24th Street Cheese Company

By Kate Volkman

When Charles Kung took over the 24th Street Cheese Company in February 1986, he knew very little about cheese. His teenage years in Argentina had given him some background in Western tastes, but his Chinese roots were no help at all, he says. "Living in Argentina was the first time I had contact with Western food—the ham, the cheese, the wine."

So, how did he become the proprietor of Noe Valley's "perfectly aged" cheese shop?

Just after his birth in 1950, Kung's parents moved their family from mainland China to Taiwan, where his father served



After 21 years as owner of the 24th Street Cheese Company, Charles Kung, assisted by employees Susan Holtslander and Ellen Herlihy (right), has become a connoisseur of the wine and cheese tastes of the neighborhood.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

Betty Taisch Top Producer

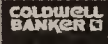


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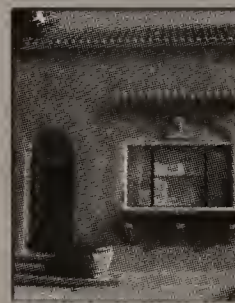


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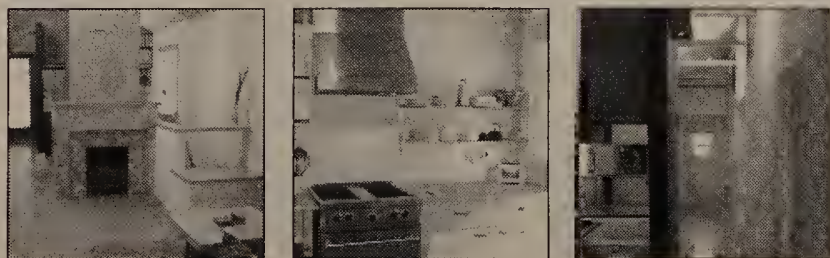


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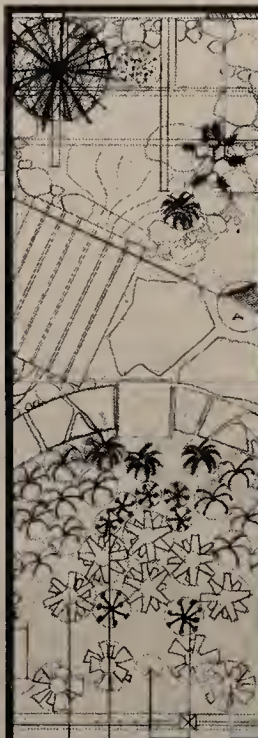
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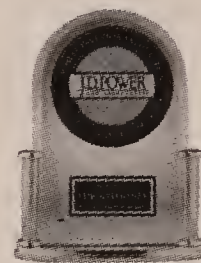
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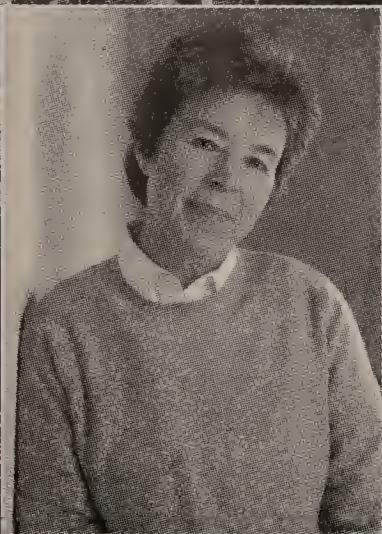
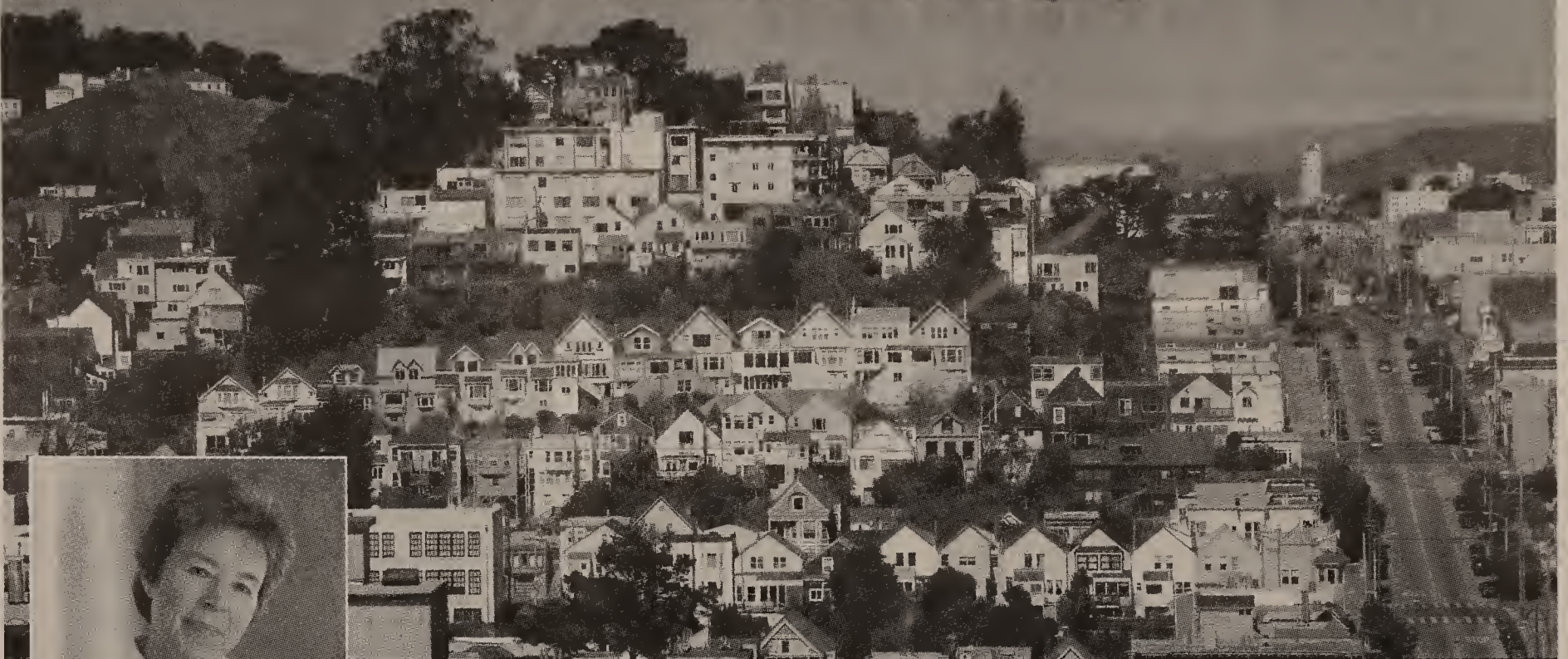
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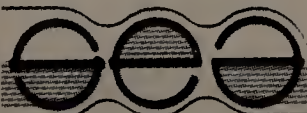
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Iraq Vigil Brings Tears

Editor:

Thank you for the top-of-the-fold, front-page story about “3,000+ Lights,” my Feb. 14 vigil in Dolores Park for American soldiers who have died in Iraq [March 2007 *Voice*]. Both the writer, Patrick Letellier, and photographer, Beverly Tharp, did a beautiful job in words and pictures.

That night, family, friends, neighbors, and random dog-walkers connected on an other-worldly level. Strangers were so touched they volunteered to help, call the press, round up Muni riders, take pictures, and write about the piece. I continue to hear stories and to experience new meaning from the work.

I collected and saved the names we created for the installation, and now have two large shoeboxes full of ribbons. In early April, I was talking to a group of friends and said I had not really cried about the war until Feb. 14. I told them I did not know anyone who died there, but through this process had become connected to many names. One woman said that her boss had lost a son-in-law in Iraq a few weeks ago. As we stood over the boxes reading the names, ages, and ranks, she randomly pulled out the ribbon for Army Sergeant Robert Thrasher, 23 years old, who died on Feb. 11. It's more than a coincidence that out of 3,128 names, she brought forth the one commemorating her boss's son-in-law.

If I have to, I will do “4,000 Lights.” I will keep you posted. Thank you to all those in the neighborhood who came and participated in the event.

Dianne Platner
22nd Street

Extra Help for Girls Sailing Ships

Editor:

I was in Casa Mexicana when I read my letter to the editor, “Help Girls Sail

LETTERS 39¢

Ships,” in your March 2007 issue. I was ecstatic, and the Casa Mexicana owner shared in my enthusiasm! After reading the article, however, I noted that I had failed to acknowledge four merchants: Sun Valley Dairy, Sunrise Nails, Starbucks, and Hot Headz.

I am very grateful to *all* the Noe Valley merchants who helped in my Tall Ships Education Academy fundraising efforts. Thanks, Noe Valley. I guess this is one of the reasons I am proud to live here!

Mary Ferretti-Breidinger
Day Street

Ignore the Panhandlers

Editor:

If you walk regularly around Noe Valley, among the familiar faces of the locals are an increasing number of homeless each week. New faces seem to appear constantly—and each one seems to have found a different block on which to shake a cup. It's as if the word has gotten out: “Come to Noe, it's a liberal Eden of tolerance!”

I have not taken a formal survey—but I have yet to hear of anyone who is completely in love with the aggressive derelicts that loiter in the two-foot no man's land between Bell Market and Tully's Coffee. After a legion of complaints, neither business wants them there, but neither seems willing to do anything.

I have a solution—and I don't care if it rankles your p.c. bones: Ignore them and do not pay them to loiter while so many of us work hard or look for work. I hate to seem insensitive to their plight, but if they can show up to panhandle and keep regular hours, they surely could show up at a job. If we can whittle it down to just our favorite 10 to 12 vagrants, they stand a chance of survival.

Michael Capozzola
Noe Valley resident

SAFE Ways to Be Safe

Editor:

The last few days I have been receiving calls from Noe Valley residents saying they learned about SAFE and our services from your newspaper. I want to thank you for publicizing our crime-prevention organization, and hope you will continue to do so. Your newspaper is helping our outreach efforts.

A huge thanks to the *Noe Valley Voice* for promoting SAFE and our crime-prevention services.

Pam Matsuda, Program Director
San Francisco SAFE Inc.
415-553-1982 or pam@sfsafe.org
www.sfsafe.org

Editor's Note: The non-profit San Francisco SAFE, Inc. (Safety Awareness for Everyone) brings communities and resources together to help prevent crime and violence. SAFE also acts as a liaison between neighborhood groups and the San Francisco Police Department. Here are some of the things SAFE can do:

- Neighborhood watch groups and business watch groups setup
- Residential security surveys
- Business security surveys and presentations
- Vehicle and pedestrian safety
- Personal safety presentations
- Child safety presentations
- Older adult safety presentations
- Workplace violence prevention
- Community policing activities
- Crisis management
- Community organizing
- Collaboration with city agencies including the Office of Emergency Services and Homeland Security, and the Neighborhood Emergency Response Team, (NERT)

Kim Family Fund Thank-You's

Editor:

I am giddy with excitement to send to you this letter! Thanks to the generosity of more than 350 Noe Valleyans, the Kim Family Fund has exceeded its original goal of raising \$25,000 and instead raised \$35,000 for Kati Kim and her daughters.

Sadly, the *Voice* Letters section does not have enough room to publicly thank everyone who contributed to the fund. I do, however, wish to mention a few above-and-beyond contributing Noe Valley residents, including Sherilyn Adams, Liz and Dave Austin, Colleen Bal, Laurie Barkin, Anne-Marie Cordingly, Christine Hoang, Vince Hogan, Lynn Ingham (and the Bay Area Interactive Group), Elena Lipkins, Noe Valley Ministry, Mark Pastore, Anne Wilson and Rolf Bachmann, who with his Pomelo Restaurant patrons contributed \$3,500!

Noe Street resident and Four Seasons Executive Chef Jeremy Emmerson (and 100 of his closest friends and colleagues) raised the most money—\$20,000, in fact—with his Chefs of Noe Valley dinner at Incanto Restaurant and Wine Bar on Feb. 26. Thank you to *all* the wonderful dinner attendees, who came with checkbooks blazing!

The evening was a culinary extravaganza with each chef showing off his or her finest fare. To begin, there was a silent auction with incredibly delicious nibbles donated by Fattoush and Eric's restaurants. Auction items included a luxury weekend at Meadowood Napa Valley, brunch at the Ritz-Carlton Half Moon Bay, dinner at Gary Danko, French Laundry, Jardinière, Kokkari Estiatorio, La Ciccia, Myth, Cyrus, and Chow, and a one-week stay at the Royal Solaris Resort at San Jose del Cabo donated by Noe Valley resident Sherri Morr.

The five-course dinner was a mouth-watering feast showcasing Church Street's finest: Deep Sushi, Bistro 1689, Pescheria, and, of course, Incanto. (By the way, look for Incanto Chef Chris Cosentino on an April 22 airing of *Iron Chef* on the Food Network.) At the end of the night, Four Seasons brought the house down with Emmerson's warm chocolate cake, chocolate pot de crème, and white chocolate ice cream, followed by Bridget Labus' delicious chocolate truffles.

Thank you to *all* the magnificent Church Street chefs for their dedication and continued commitment to our gem of a street. Jeremy Emmerson—devoted father who felt deep inspiration from his supportive wife and two young daughters to create this event for Kati and her girls—I thank you most of all, scarecrow!

Deborah Kwan, thank you for gracefully handling all the media and getting the word out. Genie Donnelly, thank you for your silent auction expertise. Thank you, Flowers of the Valley, for adorning each table top with glorious floral arrangements, and Noe Valley Bakery, for donating your yummy bread for the occasion. And last but certainly not least, thank you, Mark Pastore, the owner of Incanto Restaurant, who when I praised him for donating his entire restaurant for the dinner, shrugged it off and said, “This is all part of being a good neighbor.”

Thank you, everyone, for being really, really good neighbors!

Paula Benton
The Kim Family Fund

Shufat's Her Favorite Refuge

Editor:

I love Shufat's, the deli at 24th and Church streets, and nothing makes me more furious than the café license that this city of San Francisco issued to Starbucks instead of the Abunie family, who own Shufat's, many years back. Everyone who's spent any time in Shufat's with me agrees that Noe Valley would be a totally different neighborhood if the Abunie family had gotten that café license instead.

Since 9/11/2001, these folks have become my favorite neighbors, and I'd trust them with my life. Were we to have the big earthquake, the terrorist attack, or, more likely, the state terrorist attack, we in Noe Valley would really have no public space to gather in, since Nutraceutical has taken over the building most central to the neighborhood and left it empty, to assert the primacy of private property over any community claim to its center or what might, long ago in Europe, have been called its commons.

Since we have no public space, my first thought would be to head straight to Shufat's Market and Delicatessen. If we're goin' down, these are the folks I'd most like to go down with.

Ann Garrison
Dolores Street

**LETTERS to the EDITOR**

THE VOICE welcomes your letters to the editor. Write the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Or e-mail editor@noevalleyvoice.com. Please include your name, address, and phone number. (Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication.) Be aware that letters may be edited for brevity or clarity. We look forward to hearing from you.

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J-Church Line Put Under a Microscope

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

all municipal rail lines are required to be on time at least 85 percent of the time. The J isn't even close.

But the line's low score does have a silver lining. On March 5, the SFMTA announced the J-Church Pilot Program, part of the Transit Effectiveness Project's Early Action Plan and modeled after a similar initiative that improved on-time performance on the California-1 bus line from 81 to 88 percent over a three-month period completed in February 2007. The 120-day pilot project, slated to run through July 13, 2007, will assess the rail line, its scheduling and day-to-day operations, in order to determine what causes delays and how best to improve on-time performance.

"We are very focused on doing everything we can to improve the service," says SFMTA spokesperson Maggie Lynch.

While the project is designed to pinpoint when, where, and why the J-Church becomes delayed, Lynch says that likely factors include internal problems like "missed runs," which are defined as regularly scheduled trains that fail to operate due to mechanical problems or an operator's absence, as well as external issues like automobiles and delivery trucks blocking the tracks.

"We don't have what you'd call exclusive right of way. If somebody double-parks to run in and get a mochaccino, we're gonna sit there," Lynch says.

Rider Survey in Progress

Since the project's launch early last month, transit employees have been collecting data detailing how much time, on average, it takes for a J-Church streetcar to travel from stop to stop. The SFMTA

has added an inspector at the departure terminal to ensure all J-Church cars are in operation when they are supposed to be. And transit employees have been asking J-Church riders to complete Transit Effectiveness Project (TEP) surveys that detail their experiences on the line. The SFMTA also plans to reprogram the traffic signal at 18th and Church streets to allow J-Church streetcars priority passage.

SFMTA employees are already working to stop streetcar drivers from beginning their routes early, a practice that can lead to overcrowding on the next car, or not running at all. The Department of Parking and Traffic is also stepping up patrols along the J-Church route to deter drivers from obstructing the streetcars' path with their vehicles.

Adding Cars May Be Slow-Going

With these continued efforts, riders are likely to see improvements before the project's completion in July. Other changes will require more time. Adding new streetcars to the route, for example, would take more time, says Lynch, due to union regulations surrounding employee signups for new transit routes.

As for the project's cost, Lynch declined to give an exact figure, but said it would likely be less expensive than the California-1 project, which cost a reported \$168,000, because there are fewer cars in operation on the J-Church line than buses on the California-1 route.

Despite the rail line's poor performance record, some J-Church riders are able to look on the bright side. Take Clipper Street resident Peter Olfe, for example:

"Relative to the Muni buses, it doesn't smell that bad. Besides, the view at the top of Dolores Park makes the ride worth it."

The SFMTA is actively seeking people to report on their J-Church riding experiences during the pilot program. For information, e-mail Jennifer Ulbrich at Jennifer.Ulbrich@sfmta.com.



Both outbound and inbound trains, like this one, will be clocked during Muni's four-month assessment of the J-Church line.

Photo by Pamela Gerard



Vandals destroyed three newly planted trees near the corner of Sanchez and 24th streets in February, forcing the Noe Valley Association to remove them. Frustrated but undeterred, the NVA will plant replacements and 66 more trees in April.

Photos by Pamela Gerard

It's Not Easy Staying Green

By Corrie M. Anders

Tree lovers in Noe Valley had some good news and bad news last month.

First the bad news: Person or persons unknown fatally mangled at least five young trees sometime in February. The trees were among the 66 that the Noe Valley Association (also known as the 24th Street Community Benefit District) planted around the neighborhood last fall.

NVA Executive Director Debra Niemann says the three London plane trees planted on the Sanchez Street side of St. Clair's liquor store on 24th Street were attacked deliberately. The London planes usually mature into a large green canopy of leaves.

"Someone has been methodically tearing off bits and pieces of the trees to the point that nothing will grow," she says.

Vandals also lopped off the top of a Tristania sapling in front of Tuggey's Hardware Store at 3835 24th Street. So much of the ornamental tree was sheared that Niemann says it "could never grow."

The fifth casualty, a non-fruit-bearing strawberry tree, was located in front of an apartment building in the same 3800 block of 24th Street. It was cut down at mid-trunk.

"All the trees were so severely damaged, we ended up having to take them out completely," Niemann says. "Now we'll have to replant and put cages around them to try to deter people."

She says she has no idea why someone would harm the neighborhood's new trees. "None whatsoever," she says. "We've put up signs saying that it is against the law to destroy this tree."

Undaunted, the association will plant another batch of 66 trees in April—that's the good news—and is looking for vol-

unteers to help get the job done.

"We need 66 volunteers, one per tree, and you can bring your kids," says Niemann. "Kids love to dig in dirt."

Volunteers will gather at 8 a.m., Saturday, April 14, at the parking lot adjacent to the Bank of America, to assemble trees, posts, and straps. An hour or so later, Friends of the Urban Forest will train helpers on how to successfully plant the trees. The actual planting will last about three hours, and will be followed by a pizza feed at the community room of St. Philip's Church.

"This is a great opportunity for our community to come together and improve the quality of air and life for all of us in Noe Valley," says Niemann.

The trees will be staked at two locations: along Castro Street from Elizabeth Street to Jersey Street, and along 24th Street between Castro and Diamond streets. The plantings include a mixture of five species—Tristania, Callery pear, double-cherry, Little Gem magnolias, and non-fruit-bearing strawberry. They're all small decorative trees with nice foliage and blossoms.

The city of San Francisco awarded the association a Community Challenge grant to help defray the \$175-per-tree cost of the 132 trees. The grant covered \$100 of the price, and the remainder was financed through the association's budget, Niemann says.



Before someone tore off their branches, these London plane trees were starting to bring a leafy presence to Sanchez Street.

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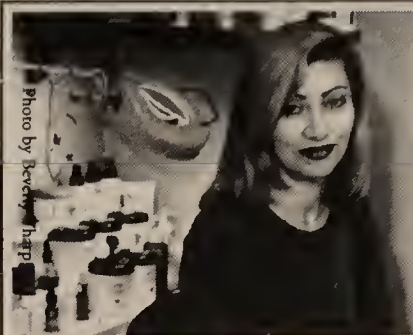
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For Reservations

A Master Plan for 24th Street

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Beautification Committee. "I think ultimately it will be a blueprint for the city."

Bulb-Outs for Bus Stops

The design research began with forums in November and December, where Urban Ecology employed role-playing to get residents to rank their desires for community improvements. Participants were given a stash of symbolic money—their tax dollars, as it were—to spend on their favorite physical improvements.

The plan's highest priority emphasized strategies to make both the street safer for pedestrians and the sidewalks more hospitable. Together, they would "increase the family-friendly nature" of Noe Valley, said Kamya Ramachandran, Urban Ecology's community designer.

The traffic measure that grabbed the most ardent consideration called for establishing bus "bulb-outs" to replace Muni's current loading zones at several intersections. The bulb-outs would be created by extending the sidewalk into the street by up to six feet. The bulb-outs also would be dressed up with plantings and light fixtures.

Instead of moving from the traffic lane to curbside loading zones, as they now do, buses would stop in the middle of the street to take on and discharge passengers. The practical effect would be to force cars to cool their wheels until the bus is ready to resume its route.

The bulb-outs would only use 40 feet of curbside space, not the 70 to 80 feet that bus zones currently eat up. "We don't lose any parking spaces by doing this," said Ramachandran, "and we might even gain a few parking spaces."

Crosswalks That Shout

The second highest amount of faux money was spent on the installation of high-visibility crosswalks. This choice reflects residents' concerns that drivers have been failing to yield to pedestrians along 24th Street, and vice versa. The Noe Valley self-planners suggested the use of bold, ladder- or zebra-style stripes to shout out to vehicular traffic the location of crosswalks. A yellow ladder prototype is already in use at the intersection at 24th and Castro streets.

Another proposed method was to alter the texture of the pavement at crosswalks. For pedestrians, a singing countdown at traffic lights would let them know how much time remained to cross to the other side of the street.

Some residents expressed concern that bus bulb-outs and other traffic-calming measures would divert cars and trucks



This photo shows what a "bulb-out" at the Noe Street bus stop might look like, should the city adopt some of the features of a new master plan for 24th Street.

Photo collage courtesy of Urban Ecology

onto side streets. They posed the question, "Are we going to make Jersey and Elizabeth streets the fast zones?" Eiland said, and the answer was "absolutely not."

Ideas for Busy Sidewalks

Meeting participants happily spent a sizable portion of their funds to make 24th Street's 12-foot-wide sidewalks a livelier place for pedestrians. "Right now, the sidewalks are too narrow to deal with more fun stuff," said Ramachandran. "You can't really do much with it."

The sidewalk width would remain as it is (except for the bulb-outs). But the plan would reserve three feet of sidewalk space closest to the street as a "sidewalk furnishing zone." That area would include streetlights, parking meters, trees, and other landscaping—creating a buffer that would separate pedestrians from vehicular traffic.

The next six feet of sidewalk would serve as a clear travel way for shoppers and passersby. The last three feet, in front of businesses, would be set aside for shop furnishings such as benches, store display racks, and planters.

Trees and Energy Efficiency

Ramachandran said residents also were "really excited" over the prospects of "enhancing the environmental sensitivity of the streets." For example, they asked for street furnishings that used wooden or recycled plastic furniture, landscaping that consisted of native plants and easy-to-maintain trees, and energy-efficient street lighting.

But their top environmental recommendation urged the use of permeable sidewalk surfaces and planter beds so that rainwater could soak into the ground and reduce the amount that wasted into the city's sewer system.

"The idea for this is, as much as possible, to recharge the ground with water," she said. "Right now, we have impervious surfaces of concrete and asphalt... where the rainwater goes into the sewer system" and has to be treated with chemicals.

The idea already has captured the imagination of one Noe Valley property owner, according to Eiland, who operates Just for Fun, a gift store at 3982 24th Street. Eiland said the property owner is his landlord, who needs to repair the concrete sidewalk in front of the store that has been buckled by tree roots for the fourth time in 19 years.

The owner plans to either replace the sidewalk around the tree with a permeable material or leave the space open and plant flowers or shrubs, Eiland said. "This is an example of what the whole street will look like one day," he said.

Art and Public Space

Endowing Noe Valley with more public art was another goal of meeting-goers. Ramachandran said it "really stood out" on the community's wish list, especially functional art such as benches and trash receptacles, and aesthetic works like sculptures and murals.

Residents were keen to see their chil-

dren create murals or ceramic tile projects for public display. Two possible locations for those works were identified: the blank wall at the Sterling Bank at Church Street and the blank wall near Rabat at Noe Street.

In the new plan, four parking lot areas would serve as mini gathering locations for residents to socialize or for shoppers to take a breather. Flowers and shrubs and benches would be used to soften the edges and invite people into the "community hubs" at these parking lots: at Bell Market, the Noe Valley Ministry's lot, Walgreen's, and the city-operated facility across from the Valley Tavern.

A Need for Real Money

To stimulate discussion, Urban Ecology had drawn up three alternative versions for the master plan: a village center located at Bell Market; a smaller "village hubs" plan (the one eventually chosen); and a village street concept that spread the amenities along the entire commercial strip. These concepts were shown to a group of about 45 people at a final meeting on March 6 at St. Philip's Hall.

"The community liked the village center [too]," said Ramachandran, which would have included a bus-stop island in front of Bell Market and a pedestrian crosswalk in the middle of the block. But the city had nixed the idea because it didn't conform to city policy and couldn't have won approval, Ramachandran said.

That mid-block alternative may be reconsidered sometime in the future, as well as a couple of design ideas that didn't make the cut this time for practical reasons: putting utility wires underground and permitting more diagonal parking along Castro Street closer to 24th Street. (Diagonal parking already exists in the block of Castro between Jersey and 25th streets.)

The urban village plan will require funding from various city, state, and federal sources. But having such a plan in place, worked out with community feedback, will make it easier to get the funding, Ramachandran said.

"That said, it does not mean having a plan is going to get things done in the next two years," she said. "It's almost a 20-year plan.... We have to fit the plans in with the city's capital budget." ■

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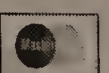


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LOCAL GEMS

Charles Kung's 24th Street Cheese Company

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in the Nationalist Air Force. In 1964, they moved again—this time to Buenos Aires. "One of my mother's childhood friends lived in Argentina in the late '50s," Kung explains. "When she came back to Taiwan in the early '60s, she told my mother, 'Argentina is like a new world. You can have a fresh start and make money easily.'"

It wasn't so easy at first. The family opened a Chinese restaurant with some partners. Kung and his brother attended the local Argentine high school where they learned to speak Spanish; his sister went to the American school and improved her English. They all worked in the restaurant in their spare time.

One day, a Chinese fisherman walked into the restaurant and happened to tell Kung's mother that he needed a better vendor for his food supplies for his fishing boat. "My mother realized, we can get into this business," recalls Kung. That's when their success began.

A Mother with Foresight

Their first San Francisco business opportunity came in 1973. Kung's sister Mary was a student at San Francisco State University and was waiting tables at Andy's Doughnuts on Castro Street when the building went up for sale. Kung's mother was on the next plane from Argentina with money in her hand.

Over the years, Kung's mother steadily purchased more real estate in and around Noe Valley. The family currently owns a home in Diamond Heights, a building on the corner of Carl and Cole streets in Cole Valley that's the home of Crepes on Cole, the Mikeytom grocery building at Church and Day streets, the building that's home to Ladybug Ladybug on 24th and Sanchez, and of course, the building that's home to the 24th Street Cheese Company, at 3893 24th Street near Sanchez Street.

Two men, whose names are unknown to Kung, opened the 24th Street Cheese Company under the name The Cheese Company about 30 years ago. It started in the storefront now operated by bp+eyewear, and then moved across the street to its current location soon thereafter. After a couple of years, the original owners sold the store to Joan Anderson, who ran it for about five years. In the early '80s, Kung's family bought the property and leased the shop to Anderson.

When the owner left abruptly in 1984, the Kungs faced a decision. "The people who were working here told my parents, 'You can continue this cheese store.' [But] there was very little here—no cheese, just the empty counter," Kung recalls. "Of course, my mother told them, 'We don't know how to run a cheese store. We can run a Chinese restaurant, but not a cheese store.'"

At the time, Kung was living in Argentina, helping a friend run his grocery store. After finishing his degree at the University of Houston, Kung worked as manager for his family's Chinese restaurant New Hunan, which was in the space now occupied by Cybelle's Pizza at 24th and Church streets.

He had gone back to Buenos Aires because he didn't have a green card and was awaiting a visa so he could return to the



The 24th Street Cheese Company is a busy place on Saturdays, when people come from all over the city to stock up on cheese and other delicacies.

Photos by Pamela Gerard

United States as a legal immigrant. That's when he got the call from his mother that upon his arrival, she hoped he would take over the cheese store.

When Kung and his new wife, Hsueh Wei, arrived in 1986, they moved into the apartment above the shop. While he ran the business downstairs, his wife took care of their two daughters upstairs. Joanna, 20, and Laura, 18, are now both in college on the East Coast.

In his first days as a cheese shop owner, Kung dove into research. "The kinds of things we sell here—bread, raviolis, wine—I knew about them because of living in Argentina. But the cheese, I didn't know anything. I was only familiar with Parmesan, mozzarella, and provolone—that's it. But here we have several hundred different kinds—all different types from all over—Switzerland, Italy, France, especially France. So I started to read lots of cheese books."

The text Kung relies on the most to this day is *Cheese: The Connoisseur's Guide to the World's Best*, by Max McCalman and David Gibbons. "This is our Bible," he says.

Kung also learned by watching and listening. "When I first arrived, we had three or four people working here on weekends. So I just washed the knives. I did the wrapping. For about two weeks I watched them—how they talked with customers, how they explained about different kinds of cheese. I kept my eyes and ears open....

"When the sales rep came in, from my prior experience as a manager, I knew to ask them, 'What do we usually buy from you?' Plus, I had seen what sold, and what didn't sell. And then I could differentiate between the cheeses that are more perishable—the fresh cheese, and the more aged cheese that you don't have to worry about that much."

More Than 300 Cheeses

Twenty-one years later, Kung has become an expert on all 300 cheeses his shop carries, down to the minute details of each cheese's age, rind, taste, smell, and color. "Now I can just look at a cheese and know if it's fresh or not fresh. I don't even have to taste it. With the fresh wash-rind cheese from France, you have to smell it. When we get the delivery, you have to check all of them and make sure they're not too old. You have to have a good nose." That's not to say he doesn't keep on tasting. "I trust my own palate," he says. "I know what a good cheese should taste like."

Kung selects cheddar from England, sheep's milk cheeses from Vermont, Spain, and Corsica, aged gouda from Holland, and brie and camembert from France. Prices range from \$11.95 to \$40 per pound.

"I've carried different cheeses as the people who live in Noe Valley have changed over the past 20 years," he says. "The people moving in today can afford more high-end really good cheese than people who



Charles Kung, who lives above his cheese shop with his wife Hsueh Wei, says Noe Valley is like a small town. "You have to be good, because if you're not, everyone knows, and fast."

lived here a long time ago. It was a working-class neighborhood in the mid-'70s. Now it's totally different. Now it's an upscale neighborhood. Many of the cheeses I carry now I wouldn't dare to carry 15 years ago. But now I can carry pretty much the best cheese in the whole world."

Customer Taste Tests

Kung and his employees Maria Biehn, Susan Holtslander, and Ellen Herlihy regularly share their knowledge with customers and offer tastes to help them determine which cheeses to purchase. Customer Jeff Critchfield appreciates

their expertise. "It's great to know we can stop by and count on Charles and his staff to recommend a variety of cheeses perfectly suited to any occasion," says Critchfield. "He's opened our eyes and noses and taste buds, to a delicious array of cheeses like Saint Agur, Epoisses de Bourgogne, and Livarot. Yum!"

However, the cheese shop wasn't always so applauded. Current and former customers whispered mild complaints about the less than friendly nature of Kung's staff gone by. Customer Amy Iacopi remarks, "I had heard rave reviews about the shop upon moving into the neighborhood. As a cheese novice, I was disappointed on my first visit, because the staff was less than excited to help me. A few months later, I tried again and I'm glad I did. A warm woman gave me a 20-minute cheese tutorial."

Kung acknowledges their disappointments. He says the closest he ever came to going out of business was several years ago. "We kind of struggled. Maybe at that time I had the wrong employees. When they're rude to customers, customers aren't going to come back. But now I have really good people working for me. This is such a small community, like a small town. You have to be good, because if you're not, everyone knows, and fast."

The 24th Street Cheese Company's best customers are Noe Valley residents, says Kung. "We also get lots of people from other neighborhoods. They always tell us, 'Why don't you have a cheese store in the Marina?' But we get good support from the locals. Our regular customers shop here once a week, usually on their way to or from the Farmers' Market."

Several customers scoot through the door minutes before the 7 o'clock close on a Friday night. Herlihy leans over the counter and hands taste after taste to first-time customer Rebecca Stevens, as Kung wraps cheeses for storage overnight.

Stevens settles on a double-crème gouda, triple-crème brie, and sopersata salami. She was inspired to come in, she says, by a tip from some friends visiting from Chicago. "They came home with some really amazing cheese, and I asked, 'Where did you get that? Certainly not Bell Market.' This is the place. It's better than the one in Cole Valley."

Herlihy flips the sign from Open to Closed, and Kung holds the door as his customers make their way past him into the cool night air. Then he turns and walks through his rustic cheese shop and up the back stairs to his home, where his wife is waiting for him. ■



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An Expert Witness Against El Salvador's 'Most Wanted'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

under the doctrine of command responsibility.

A petite redhead with a chatty personality, Karl does not, on the surface at least, look like the bulldog chief expert witness she is. In fact, Karl admits that her friendly demeanor may have helped her gain access to the Salvadoran military leaders and war-torn areas she visited during the country's long civil war, a conflict catalyzed by the 1980 assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero. During the 12-year war, an estimated 70,000 civilians were killed by their own military.

In the early 1980s, Karl was a young Harvard professor traveling back and forth to Central America to conduct research on the subject that forms the cornerstone of her life's work: oil. Her position at a leading American educational institution gave her entrée to the inner sanctums of many Central American leaders, ranging from the head of OPEC to the president of El Salvador.

During one visit, she stumbled across a corpse in a McDonald's parking lot. It was her first day in El Salvador.

"I was walking, and it was dark, and I literally kicked this body," she recalls.

That may have been her first encounter with the war's toll on innocent civilians, but it was hardly her last. She witnessed the remains of 123 murdered children in a Salvadoran village. She photographed military leaders. She photographed the dead. Although she never imagined using the material to prosecute those responsible for the civilian carnage, Karl was certain she was witnessing gross human rights violations and was frustrated by how little attention they received on an international level.

"I was appalled that you couldn't make real to someone a Salvadoran peasant—just like all those bombings in Iraq don't



Stanford professor Terry Lynn Karl witnessed such terrible human rights violations in El Salvador in the 1980s that she felt compelled to testify against the country's military leaders in war crime trials two decades later.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

seem real," she says.

But the idea that the military commanders leading the violence would ever be brought to justice in a U.S. court of law never crossed Karl's mind. After all, this was another country's civil war.

Fast-forward two decades. Completely by chance, a Salvadoran woman now living in the United States spotted a man who had tortured her during the war. They were riding the same subway train. Both were now U.S. citizens. The Center for Justice and Accountability, set up by Amnesty International, pursued the case after first establishing a "most wanted" list of Salvadoran human rights violators. Soon, another man accused of torturing civilians was located selling used cars in Modesto. Another was found living out his golden years in Memphis, Tenn. And

two former Salvadoran ministers of defense who held those posts during the civil war were found living in Florida.

Karl learned about the case and volunteered to organize evidence against the accused military leaders—some 10,000 declassified documents—and testify as the chief expert witness at their trials. To accomplish the Herculean task, Karl tapped several Stanford students to help.

For the first trial, Karl's team and a group of lawyers working pro bono set out to prove that former Salvadoran military generals Jose Guillermo Garcia and Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova were responsible for murder, torture, and crimes against humanity conducted during the war. But even with testimony from torture victims and Karl's storehouse of evidence, victory on the grounds of command responsibility seemed like a long shot. "You have to tell a jury that these generals, these guys that now look like they're your grandfather, these guys who were in most cases not even in the room when people were tortured, you have to make a leap for the jurors to say, 'These people are responsible even if they weren't right there and even if we can't prove they gave the actual orders,'" Karl explains.

But the combination of Karl's academic expertise and firsthand experience was too powerful to ignore.

"Watching her testify was poetry in motion," says Jenais Zarin, one of the Stanford students who worked on the tri-

als with Karl. "The jury was captivated. She was systematically describing an entire socio-political history that required two full days of explanation. She kept the jury spellbound."

As a result of Karl's testimony, both generals were convicted of murder, torture, and crimes against humanity. A later trial also found Colonel Nicolas Caranza, formerly El Salvador's vice minister of defense, guilty of crimes against humanity. Because the trials were civil and not criminal in nature, none of the defendants will ever end up in jail. Instead, their punishment will come in the form of substantial fines.

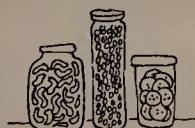
Given the groundbreaking nature of the trials, it should come as no surprise that Karl is best known for her human rights work. She holds an honorary degree in human rights from the University of San Francisco and regularly speaks about her involvement with the trials. But her true passion is oil, a subject she views as inextricably linked to war, peace, and human rights. *Oil Wars*, her latest book on the subject, is due out this month.

"The human rights work and the oil work have come together for me in the full sense," Karl says. "Many of the greatest human rights violations today have an oil story underneath them."

Terry Lynn Karl was recently awarded the Miriam Aaron Roland Volunteer Service Prize from Stanford University's Haas Center for Public Service.



Terry Lynn Karl's human rights work has taken her to many countries around the world, including the Congo, where she befriended Bondo, a Bonobo chimpanzee.



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The Seeds of a Mural on Walls of Farmers' Market

By Olivia Boler

The Noe Valley Ministry's 24th Street parking lot between Sanchez and Vicksburg streets, where the ever-popular Noe Valley Farmers' Market is held every Saturday morning, is on its way to becoming a work of art. San Francisco muralist Mona Caron has been tapped to design and execute not one but two murals on the walls of the buildings that border the lot.

You may have seen Caron's work throughout the city, particularly up and down Church Street. The Market Street Railway Mural, at 300 Church Street at 15th, "depicts a 180-degree bird's-eye view of San Francisco's Market Street, through different time periods and historical events," according to Caron's web site, www.monacaron.com. The mural won several awards, including a 2004 San Francisco Beautification Award, a certificate of honor from the Board of Supervisors, and a *San Francisco Bay Guardian* Best of the Bay award. Another of Caron's murals, on the corner of Church and 22nd streets, depicts gigantic

butterflies, dragonflies, bees, wildflowers, wild grasses, and even weeds, both native and non-native to California.

"The whole process of creating a mural takes a long time," says Caron, adding that she plans to involve neighbors and community groups in the project. "At this point, we haven't determined the design yet for the [24th Street] site."

Caron is aided by her "indefatigable coordinator," Joel Pomerantz, who helped her coordinate the Duboce Bikeway Mural she created behind the Safeway at Duboce and Church streets, which faces the N and J streetcar tracks. Pomerantz assists Caron with logistical details like community meetings, funding sources, and paperwork. In fact, Pomerantz is the brain behind the proposed Farmers' Market mural.

"I'm a stilt walker," Pomerantz explains. "And I was at the grand opening of the Farmers' Market [in December 2003]. I had such a wonderful time and really connected with the people who run it. So I approached them and asked if they would be interested in publicizing it and promoting it." Paula Benton of the Noe Valley Farmers' Market confirms this. "The Farmers' Market board loves the idea of a mural and Mona's work," says Benton. She notes, however, that the Farmers' Market is not yet an official sponsor of the project.

In March, Caron won a \$65,000 Community Challenge grant from the city for the mural, but Pomerantz says at least \$5,000 to \$10,000 more is needed. He and Caron hope to raise that by soliciting donations from residents and businesses. "It gives people a sense of ownership and education about the project," Pomerantz says.

The Noe Valley Ministry, which manages the parking lot property, and the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association both wrote letters of support for Caron's grant proposal.

So far, Caron and Pomerantz have secured verbal agreements from the owners of the two buildings: Armando Bolanos, who owns the building that houses Pete's Cleaners; and Lavender Krastas and her father George Kouloulis, who own and run Haystack Pizza.

The team has also scheduled the first of what Pomerantz envisions will be three to five community meetings so that those who would like to can make their desires known. The meeting is titled "Community Introductions and Ideas Exchange for the Planned Mural by the Noe Valley Farmers' Market," and will be held Monday, April 16, at 7:30 p.m., at the Noe Valley Ministry Lower Hall, 1021 Sanchez Street. For more information, call Pomerantz at 505-8255. Caron and he will make a short presentation and then welcome

ideas and questions from those attending. After that, they plan to hold additional meetings with specific community groups by request.

Pomerantz stresses that designing a community mural is not like "ordering up a pizza. Of course, Mona wants to get the community's input—that's very important to her—and we invite and encourage it. But in the end, Mona herself will decide on the design based on her consultations with the community."

He goes on to describe Caron's process: "Mona is a meticulous painter. She's clued into site-specific challenges. She takes into account the community and the surrounds, and she has a plan, but she leaves it open for what she learns along the way. That's different from most muralists—to leave some elements of the design to the process of painting."

Caron is excited about the project's potential. A native of Switzerland, she has lived in San Francisco for 14 years and used to call Elizabeth Street home. Now residing in the Dolores Park area, Caron relishes the challenges presented by painting on two facing walls.

"The murals could be a sort of call and response," she muses. "If it winds up being on just one wall, then the mural might be much more involved in detail." The possibilities are as endless as Caron's imagination. ■



Artist Mona Caron has received a grant to paint a mural on the sides of these two buildings adjacent to the Noe Valley Ministry parking lot on 24th Street near Vicksburg. The owners of both buildings—one housing Haystack Pizza (left) and the other Pete's Cleaners (right)—have given verbal permission, but the project is still in the early stages. Residents and merchants are invited to attend the first of a series of community meetings on April 16, 7:30 p.m., at the Noe Valley Ministry.

Photos by Sally Smith

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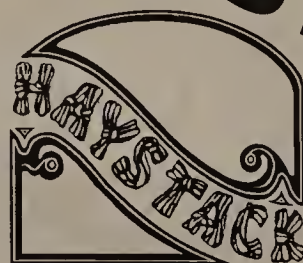
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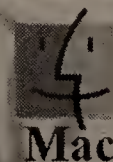
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The Cost of Living in Noe

Spring Thaw in Market

By Corrie M. Anders

After a seasonal lull, the residential real estate market livened up a bit in February, as Noe Valley buyers closed deals on eight single-family homes, each of which sold for \$1 million or more.

The number of February home sales was double January's total, but two fewer than the 10 dwellings that changed hands one year earlier.

Condominium sales rose as well. Buyers picked up six attached properties in the neighborhood in February, compared with four in January and three one year ago.

"We are starting to see the market perk

back up for spring," says Randall Kostick, general sales manager for Zephyr Real Estate, which provides monthly sales figures to the *Noe Valley Voice*.

Kostick notes that February buyers once again were willing to pay more than the asking price for both detached homes and condos. On average, they paid 3 percent more. That sort of enthusiasm has been missing from Noe Valley's real estate scene since last fall.

The most expensive properties that were sold in February are located in the upper reaches of 25th Street. Buyers paid \$2.7 million for a four-bedroom, 4½-bath residence in the 4500 block of 25th Street between Homestead Street and Hoffman Avenue.

A three-bedroom, two-bath unit in the 4700 block of 25th Street between Fountain Street and Grand View Avenue was the costliest condo. The 1,220-square-foot condo sold for \$1,050,000. ■



Noe Valley Home Sales*

| Total Sales | No. | Low Price (\$) | High Price (\$) | Average Price (\$) | Avg. Days on Market | Sale Price As % of List Price |
|-------------------------------|-----|----------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Single-family homes | | | | | | |
| Feb. 2007 | 8 | \$1,040,000 | \$2,725,000 | \$1,437,250 | 39 | 103% |
| Jan. 2007 | 4 | \$850,000 | \$1,865,000 | \$1,477,813 | 99 | 96% |
| Feb. 2006 | 10 | \$827,500 | \$2,100,000 | \$1,415,650 | 20 | 99% |
| Condominiums | | | | | | |
| Feb. 2007 | 6 | \$475,000 | \$1,050,000 | \$810,000 | 47 | 103% |
| Jan. 2007 | 4 | \$552,000 | \$815,000 | \$684,250 | 66 | 100% |
| Feb. 2006 | 3 | \$640,000 | \$1,280,000 | \$1,050,000 | 19 | 113% |
| 2- to 4-unit buildings | | | | | | |
| Feb. 2007 | 4 | \$1,270,000 | \$1,960,000 | \$1,488,750 | 64 | 100% |
| Jan. 2007 | 4 | \$850,000 | \$1,650,000 | \$1,300,000 | 46 | 91% |
| Feb. 2006 | 3 | \$1,150,000 | \$2,156,000 | \$1,592,167 | 53 | 103% |
| 5+-unit buildings | | | | | | |
| Feb. 2007 | 0 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Jan. 2007 | 1 | \$1,900,000 | \$1,900,000 | \$1,900,000 | 11 | 100% |
| Feb. 2006 | 1 | \$1,500,000 | \$1,500,000 | \$1,500,000 | 118 | 95% |

* Sales figures include all Noe Valley home sales completed during the month. In this survey, Noe Valley is defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets. The *Voice* thanks Zephyr Real Estate (www.zephyrsf.com) for supplying the sales data. NVV 4-07

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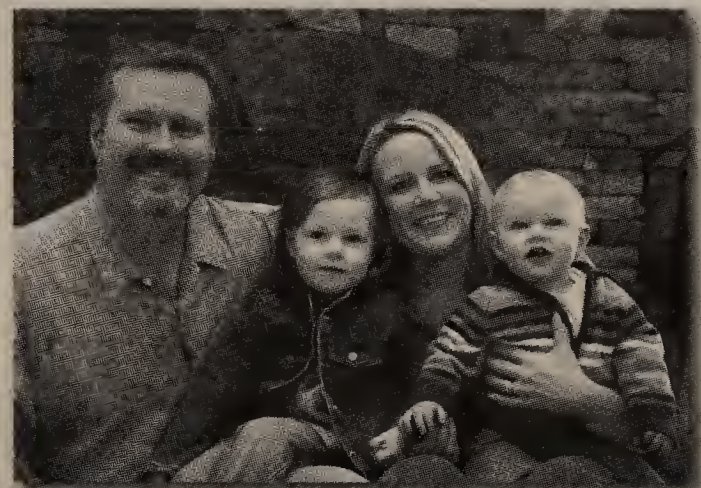
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A Snapshot of Noe Valley Rents**

| Type of Unit | Number in Sample | Range of Rents March 2007 | Average March 2007 | Average A Year Ago |
|--------------|------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Studio | 6 | \$1,000 – \$1,500 | \$1,200 / mo. | \$1,075 / mo. |
| 1-bedroom | 12 | \$1,050 – \$2,650 | \$1,772 / mo. | \$1,609 / mo. |
| 2-bedroom | 26 | \$1,900 – \$8,000 | \$2,684 / mo. | \$2,358 / mo. |
| 3-bedroom | 12 | \$2,800 – \$4,700 | \$4,098 / mo. | \$3,671 / mo. |
| 4+-bedroom | 3 | \$4,200 – \$5,500 | \$4,733 / mo. | \$6,000 / mo. |

** Survey based on a sample of 59 Noe Valley listings appearing on Craigslist.com from Feb. 28 to March 16, 2007. NVV 4-07

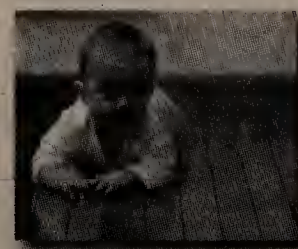
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Reviews

Good Big Ones Coming Soon:

Oscar aftermath: here are some remaining nominees to make it to DVD: **Children of Men** and **Happy Feet** (winner, best animated feature) (both 3/27/07), **Valver** (4/03/07), **Last King of Scotland** (winner, best actor) and **Notes on a Scandal** (both 4/17/07), **The Queen** (winner, best actress) (4/24/07), **Little Children** (5/01/07).

RECOMMENDED TITLES:

Some of the highest quality entertainment out there is actually on TV, and TV on DVD (there are no commercials). Here are our suggestions for now: **Entourage**: this HBO show gets better and better (Season 3 pt 1 in April). **Battlestar Galactica**: not just for sci fi fans, everyone seems to enjoy this tense but well done and fun thrill ride. **The Wire**: we and the SF Chronicle, think it's the best thing on TV (and better than most movies). Three seasons are out now and the 4th will be out in the fall we hope.

OVERLOOKED GEMS: Do not miss these low profile films.

13 Tzmeti: this gritty French indie flick won awards at Sundance, Venice and the European Film Awards, justly we think, for its story, directing and cinematography. **Jesus Camp**: This doc presents a scary (to some) but evenhanded look at the evangelical movement, focusing on a camp for kids. Very well done and highly recommended.

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SHORT TAKES

Forum on the Future of Iraq

Three experts on politics in the Middle East will speak at a forum on the war in Iraq hosted by the Noe Valley Democratic Club.

Panelist Stephen Zunes is a professor of politics and international studies at the University of San Francisco. He is also the author of many articles for both scholarly and general readership on Middle East politics, United States foreign policy, international terrorism, social movements, and human rights.

Another speaker, Amer Aram, is a former Iraqi diplomat and U.N. Secretariat official, as well as a professor at San Francisco State University. The third panelist is Banafsheh Keynoush, a lecturer at SFSU who specializes in Iranian affairs and has interviewed Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. After the three panelists speak, the audience will have an opportunity to ask questions.

NVDC Vice President Lois Lieberman organized the event. Her husband Noel explains, "We hope the panel will take a look into the future, including what may happen in Iraq and the region if the U.S. withdraws its combat troops." The discussion is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 18, at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street near 23rd Street. For more information about the Noe Valley Democratic Club, contact Andy Fleischman at 641-5838.

Spring Cleaning, Summer Reading

Church Street Professionals (formerly Church Street Business) and the Noe Valley Library Campaign are teaming up to host a summer sidewalk book sale, with proceeds to support the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Branch Library's future interior renovation.

From Sunday, April 1, to Friday, May 11, Church Street businesses will collect donated books from Noe Valley residents and shoppers. To donate your books, look for the "Donate Here" posters in the windows of Church Street stores such as Artery, Chloe's Café, Forbeadin', Lynn Antiques, and Noe Valley Pet Company.

Church Street Professionals member Paula Benton says she is already "collecting some great cookbooks, thrillers, autobiographies, children's picture books, some Harry Potters, Lemony Snickets, and my favorite, Captain Underpants."

On Saturday, May 12, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Church Street merchants from Elizabeth Street to 30th Street will sell the donated books in a festive sidewalk sale. The suggested donation is \$2 per book, and no trading is allowed. For more information about the Noe Valley Library Campaign, e-mail Kim Drew at kkdrew@yahoo.com or Marian Chatfield-Taylor at marian.ctaylor@friendssfpl.org.

Notes from Noe Valley

Neighborhood artist Royce Vaughn has recently launched a web site featuring his own watercolor, oil, and acrylic paintings as note cards. The collection includes more than 25 scenes, from the spires of St. Paul's Church at Church and Valley streets, to the Golden Gate Bridge and back roads of Northern California. Vaughn's portrait of 1960s



civil rights leaders, titled *We Shall Overcome*, is also available as a note card. Fans of Vaughn's work who'd like to see his paintings in larger sizes can order calendars, and some of the original paintings are available for purchase.

Vaughn, who lives with his wife Judy Vaughn on Valley Street, studied art history at Princeton. His work is in the permanent collection of the Oakland Museum and has been purchased by the San Francisco Art Commission. It is included in books, publications, monographs, and indexes from the Boston Library, the University of Southern Alabama, and Indiana University. To find out more about Vaughn's cards and art, visit www.originalnotecards.com.

Tango No. 9 Kicks Off the Music

The Noe Valley Music Series' April schedule features something for everyone: an evening of tango, a string summit, a Cuban jazz pianist, and a gamelan orchestra performance.

On Saturday, April 14, tango nuevo ensemble Tango No. 9 returns to the Noe Valley Ministry. The performance highlights compositions by revolutionary tango composer Astor Piazzolla and features dancers Christy Coté and Chelsea Eng of the gender-bending ensemble Tango ConFusión. Partners Darren Lees of San Diego and Gregory Phillips of Seattle will join them.

The following weekend, banjo virtuoso Bill Evans holds a string summit on Saturday, April 21, along with guitarist Scott Nygaard, dobro player Michael Witcher, bassist Cindy Browne, and fiddle champs Tristan and Tashina Claridge. On Friday, April 27, Cuban jazz pianist Elio Villafranca tickles the ivories accompanied by his quartet. A 20-piece Balinese gamelan orchestra, Gamelan Sekar Jaya, performs on Saturday, April 28, along with dancers and special guests.

All performances are scheduled for 8:15 p.m. at the Noe Valley Ministry at 1021 Sanchez Street near 23rd Street. Admission is \$16 in advance or \$18 at the door for all shows except the gamelan orchestra, which is \$18 in advance or \$20 at the event. Doors open 30 minutes before each concert. For more information, call 454-5238 or visit www.noevalleymusicseries.com. Tickets are available in advance at Streetlight Records at 3979 24th Street near Noe Street.

Meet the Writers from the Grotto

Join Fair Oaks Street author Julia Scheeres and other literary experts at a wine and cheese reception for a new se-

ries of workshops and seminars offered by the San Francisco Writers' Grotto. The workshops will begin on Monday, April 16, and include classes in magazine writing, memoir, fiction, and screenwriting.

A memoir course will be taught by Scheeres, who wrote the acclaimed *Jesus Land*, the story of her childhood experiences in a religious camp in the Dominican Republic. (It was featured in the December 2006 *Voice*.) The class takes place on eight consecutive Tuesday nights, beginning April 24.

The reception is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 12, at 490 Second Street, Suite 200, in San Francisco. Visit www.sfgrotto.org for more information.

Free Festival in Glen Park

Celebrate community spirit just south of Noe Valley's border at the 10th annual Glen Park Festival, scheduled for Sunday, April 29, from 10 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., on Diamond Street between Chenery and Bosworth streets. Participants will enjoy lots of arts and crafts booths, food, and an all-day raffle with prizes donated from merchants in Glen Park, Noe Valley, and beyond.

Parents will be especially interested in the preschool and school booths, and kids will love the visit from a San Francisco Fire Department fire truck. Dan Lopez of Dejavu Productions will provide toe-tapping entertainment from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.; Mestizo will take the stage with Latin tunes from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Proceeds from the festival benefit the Glen Park Branch Friends of the Library and other children's programs. For more information, call 835-2112 or visit www.glenparkfestival.com.

Info for Entrepreneurs

If you've got questions about running your own business, the Small Business Institute of City College of San Francisco

may have the answers. The institute is offering five free courses during the month of April. All of them take place during the evening, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the downtown campus, 88 Fourth Street.

Getting the Right Loan is scheduled for Tuesday, April 10, room 720. Pricing a Product or Service will be offered on Tuesday, April 17, also in room 720, and Small Business Bookkeeping occurs on Tuesday, April 24, in room 425. Two other courses meet for three nights each: Green and Sustainable Business happens on Wednesdays April 11, 18, and 25, in room 318; and Developing a Business Plan is scheduled for Thursdays April 12, 19, and 26, in room 425.

For more information, call CCSF's Small Business Program at 267-6577. To learn more about all the small-business courses offered at City College, log on to www.ccsf.edu.

Maritime Park Offers Youth Jobs, Volunteer Training

A free three-day training course takes place this month for anyone who'd like to become a docent at the Maritime National Historical Park, located in Fisherman's Wharf at the edge of the San Francisco Bay. The training will take place from 10:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. on three consecutive Sundays: April 15, April 22, and April 29.

Once trained, docents share their knowledge with park visitors and enjoy free access to park activities, including regular sailing trips on San Francisco Bay. To register, call Terry Dorman at 556-1613 or e-mail terry_dorman@nps.gov.

Teens ages 15 to 18 can sail into summer employment—and a chance to learn about historic ships—through the San Francisco Maritime Youth Conservation Corps program at Maritime Park. This

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

mission open studios

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SHORT TAKES

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

six-week opportunity is scheduled for Sunday, July 8, through Saturday, Aug. 18. Wages are \$10 per hour and participants work 40 hours per week. The application deadline is April 16. For further information or an application, call 561-7047. To find out more about the park and its programs, visit www.nps.gov/sqfr.

Live Jazz at Bird & Beckett

On Friday, April 13, Noe Valley is invited to help Glen Park's Bird & Beckett Books & Records celebrate Samuel Beckett's 101st birthday. The Jimmy Ryan Quartet performs jazz at 5:30 p.m., with a reading of Beckett's work to follow at 8:30 p.m. Live jazz is a tradition at the bookstore, where it is performed every Friday night from 5:30 to 8 p.m. (It's free, but donations to pay the band are strongly encouraged.)

Three other groups meet monthly at Bird & Beckett, all at 7 p.m. The store's book club convenes on the first Wednesday of each month; the Eminent Authors' Birthdays open reading takes place on second Tuesdays; and a political book discussion group gathers on third Thursdays. For those who'd like to join the Wednesday book club, the selection for April 4 is Langston Hughes' *The Big Sea*.

Coming-Out Support Group for Women

The San Francisco non-profit mental health agency New Leaf is offering a low-cost coming-out support group for women who are attracted to other women.

The group will provide a supportive place for self-identified women to explore their sexuality and the coming-out process. Discussion topics will include family responses to coming out, how to meet women, finding a lasting relationship, religious faith, and being out at work. The group will meet Tuesdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at 103 Hayes Street. A \$5 donation is suggested. For more information, call Nina Moreno at 626-7000, ext. 448.

Artists' Studios Spring Open

Several Noe Valley artists are showcasing their work at the Hunters Point Shipyard the weekend of April 28 and 29 as part of their annual Spring Open Studios. Art aficionados will have the chance to meet and talk with the artists and purchase their work, often at reduced prices.

The Noe Valley artists participating this year are Agathe Bennich, Marc Ellen Hamel, Wynne Hayakawa, Irene Hendrick,



Marc Ellen Hamel displays work she will be exhibiting, along with that of many other local artists, at the April 28-29 Spring Open Studios at Hunters Point Shipyard.

Bodhanna Kesala, Debra King, Dennis King, Derek Nunn, Linda Saytes, Jenny Robinson, and Karen Wenger. Their studios will be open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday.

If you'd like to visit them, log on to www.springopenstudio.com for details or look for Open Studios programs in and around the neighborhood in early April. They'll be stocked at many local stores, including Forbeadin' at 1185 Church Street near 24th Street, Ladybug Ladybug at 3870 24th Street near Vicksburg Street, and Artsake at 3961 24th Street between Sanchez and Noe streets. Maps are included on the programs.

Guitar Classes for Teachers

If you're a classroom teacher or other professional who works with kids in kindergarten through eighth grade, you're invited to take free guitar and song-leading classes. The non-profit Guitars in the Classroom is offering the class on Tuesdays from 4 to 5 p.m. to help teachers incorporate live music into their curricula. Materials and loaner guitars are provided at no cost.

Meet at the Bernal Heights Branch Library, 500 Courtland Avenue between Moultrie and Andover streets, in the community room. Classes begin on Tuesday, April 17, and space is limited. To register, contact Susan Pena at susanmpena@sbcbglobal.net or 647-6878.

Birds and Beauty in Corona Heights

The Randall Museum is looking for volunteers to help keep Corona Heights Park healthy for birds, insects, and other wildlife, from 10 a.m. until noon on Saturday, April 28. Volunteers will remove invasive weeds and clean debris from trails while learning about the San Francisco ecosystem.

Bird lovers are invited to discover

Corona Heights Park's feathered inhabitants during a morning bird walk on Friday, April 20, at 8 a.m. During this two-hour walk, participants will explore the park's east canyon, south cliffs, north forest, and hilltop grasslands and learn to listen for nuthatches, warblers, and more. The walk includes several stairs and a steep path.

For both events, meet at the Randall Museum, located at 199 Museum Way, off Roosevelt Street above Castro and 14th streets. Kids ages 10 and up are welcome to participate in either event if accompanied by a parent. Call ahead to sign up for the April 28 volunteer party or request binoculars for the April 20 bird-watching walk by calling 554-9600, ext. 16, or visiting www.randallmuseum.org.

Transit Advisers Needed

If you've got a lot of opinions about transportation planning in San Francisco, now's your chance to serve on the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. The MTC is accepting applications for membership in three committees: the MTC Advisory Council, the Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee, and the Minority Citizens Advisory Committee.

Participants will attend monthly meetings and will receive travel reimbursement and a small stipend for their time. The MTC commissioners will review applications and appoint committee members for a two-year term that begins in September 2007.

Applications are due on Friday, April 13. Applicants must live in San Francisco or another county in the Bay Area. To learn more about each of the committees and download an application, visit www.mtc.ca.gov/get_involved/advisory, e-mail info@mtc.ga.gov, or call 510-817-5757.

The Short Takes were compiled and written by Erin O'Briant.



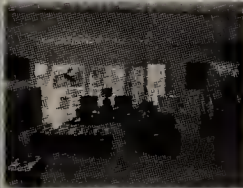
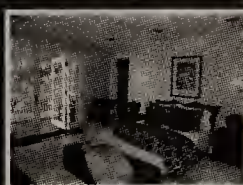
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POLICE BEAT

Police Beat is a review of crime incidents in Noe Valley occurring in the most recent month for which we have statistics. The area covered in the Voice survey is bordered by Grand View, 21st, Fair Oaks, and 30th streets. The February 2007 crime stats were culled from online data as well as from incident reports filed at Mission and Ingleside Police Stations.

Crime Drops in All Categories But Robbery

By Erin O'Briant

Overall crime in Noe Valley dropped nearly 34 percent during February 2007 over the previous month. Just 49 incidents were reported in February, as compared with 74 incidents in January.

Police received reports of three assaults, nine burglaries, two drug incidents, 14 cases of petty theft (many of them in shops on 24th Street), and six instances of vandalism in the neighborhood.

February was a relatively good month for auto owners: only seven vehicle thefts were reported, less than half the number of auto thefts the month before. All of the vehicles were stolen from areas on or north of Clipper Street.

Robbery was the only category in which crime increased during February: the number of those crimes doubled. Eight street robberies, some of which involved life-threatening weapons, were reported in Noe Valley, and a carjacking happened just outside the neighborhood at 24th and Guerrero streets.

According to Public Information Officer Sgt. Steve Mannina, the carjacking took place at 4:15 a.m. on the morning of Saturday, Feb. 24, when a young man

Online Reporting

The SFPD now has an online reporting system for the following crimes:

- Lost Property
- Theft
- Vandalism
- Vehicle Tampering
- Vehicle Burglary
- Harassing Phone Calls

Using this system allows you to submit a report and immediately print out a copy. Additional information is available at the Police Department's web site: www.sfgov.org/sitelpolice.

Dozens of Drivers Cited in Guerrero Traffic Stings

By Erin O'Briant

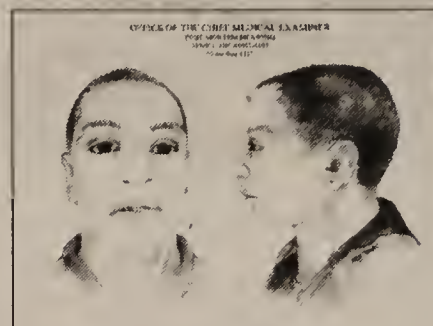
Noe Valley residents told police they feared for their lives while walking across busy intersections in the southeastern corner of the neighborhood, and officers patrolling the area saw many drivers failing to yield the right of way to pedestrians. In response, Capt. Paul Chignell ordered Ingleside Station officers to conduct two traffic "stings" in February.

The first sting took place on Thursday, Feb. 1, from 8 to 11 a.m., at Valley and Guerrero streets. A plainclothes officer attempted to cross the intersection while cars sped by on. Officers issued citations to those drivers who failed to yield the right of way to the undercover pedestrians. They issued 44 citations that day. On the morning of Wednesday, Feb. 28, officers issued an additional 30 tickets in a similar operation at 28th and Guerrero streets.

According to Ingleside Station's Sgt. Jim Miller, who supervised the first February sting, most drivers assume they have the right of way because they are on a busy street and are driving relatively fast. "They are forgetting the basics they learned a long time ago, either via driver's training or in the [Department of Motor Vehicles] handbook," he explains. "Pedestrians have the total right of way in either a marked or unmarked crosswalk." Some drivers, Miller says, assume that if a pedestrian steps off the curb to cross the street and then stops, the pedestrian has yielded the right of way to the driver. "Wrong! The driver should stop and allow the pedestrian to cross unless the pedestrian somehow clearly communicates that he or she wants to give up the right of way."

To avoid getting a ticket during future traffic stings, Miller says, drivers should stay attuned to pedestrians and make eye contact with them. Pedestrians should also make eye contact and give clear hand signals to drivers. "Remember, a pedestrian will never win in a pedestrian-versus-car collision." Always look before crossing the street, he advises, and don't assume cars will stop.

Noe Valley pedestrians and drivers, Miller adds, will see more traffic stings in the future.



In late March, the San Francisco Medical Examiner was still unable to identify the young man who was found dead on the sidewalk at Church and 27th streets the morning of Saturday, Feb. 10 (see last month's *Police Beat*). If you recognize the man in this sketch, call 553-1694 and refer to SFME case number 2007-0193.

into the rear door of an occupied home, they discovered the man still on the premises, stuck on the back fence he had attempted to climb over. They took him into custody.

Two people were arrested for domestic violence in Noe Valley. In one case, a person assaulted a roommate; in another, an inebriated ex-boyfriend struck his victim with various objects. The *Noe Valley Voice* does not publish locations or specific details of domestic violence cases because doing so may jeopardize the victims' safety.

took the vehicle from the driver at knife-point. The 18- to 19-year-old suspect is still at large; the stolen vehicle was recovered later that day.

Series of Stickups

Suspects threatened victims with guns during six of the eight February street robberies, most of which took place in the eastern half of the neighborhood.

Late in the evening of Thursday, Feb. 22, a suspect approached a person walking near 24th and Church streets, brandished a gun, and demanded the victim's laptop. The victim turned over the computer and fled on foot.

Two robberies with guns took place on Fair Oaks Street, one at 22nd Street in the early morning hours of Friday, Feb. 2, and another near 25th Street just after 9 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 10. A strongarm robbery happened on Valley Street between Sanchez and Church around 8 p.m. the evening of Sunday, Feb. 25. A robbery with bodily force took place at 25th and Church streets during the afternoon of Wednesday, Feb. 7.

Robberies where guns were used also

took place on 22nd Street between Dolores and Chattanooga streets, on Clipper Street between Castro and Diamond streets, and at Dolores and 23rd streets (see last month's *Letters to the Editor* at www.noevalleyvoice.com).

2 Muggers, 1 Burglar Arrested

Meanwhile, the officers at Mission Police Station announced that the San Francisco District Attorney had charged two suspects, Milo Otha-Mayer and Mitchell Burch, with 16 felony counts of robbery and receiving stolen property. These suspects were arrested in connection with a string of robberies that took place in several San Francisco neighborhoods, including Noe Valley. According to the Mission Station newsletter, an off-duty police officer helped crack the case when he spotted a vehicle that the suspects had used in their getaways.

Police also arrested a Noe Valley burglar when he failed to escape after burglarizing a residence on Church Street near 21st Street during the early morning hours of Sunday, Feb. 11. When officers responded to a report of a man breaking

How to Contact the SFPD

The public is invited to attend police-community meetings held monthly at the Ingleside and Mission Police Stations.

Ingleside meetings take place on the third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., at Ingleside Station, 1 Sgt. John Young Lane, off the 2000 block of San Jose Avenue. Mission community meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., at Mission Station, 630 Valencia Street near 17th Street.

Noe Valleyans who live within the bounds of the Mission Police District (north of Cesar Chavez Street) may contact Mission Station by calling 558-5400 or e-mailing SFPDMissionStation@ci.sf.ca.us. To report anonymously on drugs, gangs, or other crimes, call Mission Station's hotline at 575-4444.

Residents and merchants in Upper Noe Valley—south of Cesar Chavez Street—may contact Ingleside police by calling 404-4000 or e-mailing SFPDInglesideStation@ci.sf.ca.us. The Ingleside anonymous tip line is 587-8984.

For citywide online reporting, go to www.sfgov.org/sitelpolice.

To sign up for Ingleside Station's daily crime e-newsletter, e-mail Ingleside Capt. Paul Chignell at Paul.Chignell@sfgov.org. To request the Mission e-newsletter, write Capt. John Goldberg at SFPDMissionStation@ci.sf.ca.us.

To report a crime in progress, call 911.

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STORE TREK

By Laura McHale Holland

Store Trek is a regular feature of the *Noe Valley Voice*, profiling new stores and businesses in Noe Valley. This month, we introduce two businesses in the real estate sphere: an escrow and title company and a newly renovated real estate brokerage, investment, and management firm.

MURPHY O'BRIEN REAL ESTATE INVESTMENTS 4153 24th Street between Castro and Diamond streets 415-648-1200

March 28 was a day of celebration at Murphy O'Brien Real Estate Investments. Partners Mel Murphy and Luke O'Brien hosted the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association meeting that evening. And they showed their colleagues and neighbors their newly remodeled Victorian building at 4153 24th Street. The firm had been temporarily displaced during construction.

The two-story office (management upstairs) boasts inviting hardwood floors, peach-hued walls, and custom-built wooden office furniture, stained a deep brown, in a variety of configurations from



The family at Murphy & O'Brien Real Estate Investments (from left to right) includes John Keogan, Luke O'Brien, Mel Murphy, Noe Murphy, Mimi Fan, Marcelino Perez, and Patty Woods. Photo by Pamela Gerord

small desks with minimal accoutrements to fully appointed workstations with plenty of storage space for important documents above and below the desks. And in keeping with 21st-century technology, all computers, phones, faxes, and the like are wireless, so there are no cables twisting and curling underfoot.

Murphy has over 35 years' experience in many aspects of real estate, including property development and management, and real estate brokerage services. He and O'Brien, a real estate agent, joined forces in 2004. They founded their company with an expansive view.

"We didn't want to be just another brokerage company where we look for people in the market to buy a house and sellers that are in the market to sell property and do transactions, make commissions, and move on," O'Brien says.

"We didn't want to limit ourselves. We wanted to create relationships and bring investment opportunities to the attention of clients who are interested in investing capital in real estate, either in partnership with us or in having us manage their investments."

To that end, the partners complemented their new space with a conference room that comfortably sits six to eight people and is fully equipped for presentations.

Adding to a sense of ease, the office is lit with a combination of natural light coming through windows and soft-glow lighting fixtures spaced throughout the rooms, as opposed to having one or two large old-fashioned fluorescent lights in the center of the ceiling.

While their official office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., O'Brien says he's often working from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., or later. No matter. His job, he says, is satisfying even when the market is going through a slower period. "The market's actually healthier now than it was when it was going up 15 to 20 percent annually, because that's not sustainable," he says.

Does that mean now is a good time to invest in real estate? According to O'Brien, yes. "The best time to invest in real estate is now, and it always is now," he says. "The overwhelming pattern for the longest time is for property values to go up. You may see a dip every once in a while, but the trend for many, many years has been upward. Real estate should be a major anchor around every financial portfolio. It's the American way to invite people to take risks and invest in the future. That's what made this country what it is."



Pierre Beniston, Jacqueline Weber, and Irasema Villarreal join Judina Trade (not shown) in providing title insurance with a smile at Financial Title Company. Photo by Paulo Whitehead

FINANCIAL TITLE COMPANY 816 Diamond Street between Jersey and 24th streets 415-206-7720

www.financialtitlecompany.com

A community asset of a different ilk moved in when Natural Resources vacated its storefront at 816 Diamond Street and moved to the Mission District, after 19 years of providing services to young families in Noe Valley. The women working at Financial Title Company talk escrow instead of *in utero* and closing instead of crowning, but just like the women of Natural Resources, they have a midwife's passion for bringing dreams to life.

Judina "JuJu" Trade is branch manager and senior escrow officer. And Jacqueline "Jax" Weber is associate escrow officer. Walk through the front door of their homey office any weekday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., and you'll find both of them at their red mahogany desks...smiling. "This is not a job, this is our career," says Trade, who has been in the title and escrow business since 2001. "And we love coming to work. It's rare to hear that, but we love what we do."

What they do is make it possible for home sellers and buyers to close transactions by providing title and escrow services. "Escrow is defined as a neutral party holding funds and documents until all parties to the escrow have performed," Trade notes. "Title insurance involves a one-time premium, which insures against previous actions resulting in the compromise of the integrity of real estate ownership."

Trade says the business is fast-paced, and that no two escrows are the same.


"It's stressful. You have to be able to multitask and be very detail-oriented in this business," she says. "There are always challenges, from minor complications to large complications. Getting through those hurdles in a timely manner and closing is really rewarding, getting everything resolved so that everybody's happy at the end of the transaction."

Trade added that property owners sometimes come to her in times of need. For example, someone may have been dealing with a health crisis and not been able to stay on top of his or her affairs. Trade can do a search on the property and provide a report disclosing anything recorded that encumbers the property, such as an impending foreclosure.

Financial Title Company is part of Mercury Companies, Inc., and has offices throughout California. It has five San Francisco locations. Trade's office joined the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association. It also is a sponsor for Rebuilding Together, a San Francisco nonprofit that endeavors to preserve and revitalize homes and communities.

"I've been volunteering for the past few years," Trade says. "We find families that are in need, and we take a home that's not in the best living condition, and we turn it around for them." Volunteers paint, clean, gut, garden, build fences, fix windows, repair plumbing, and even go to the dump to get the homes they take on in ship shape.

"Rebuilding Together ties in with our business because we're all about helping people," Trade says. "Stop in and say hello, and come get to know us."



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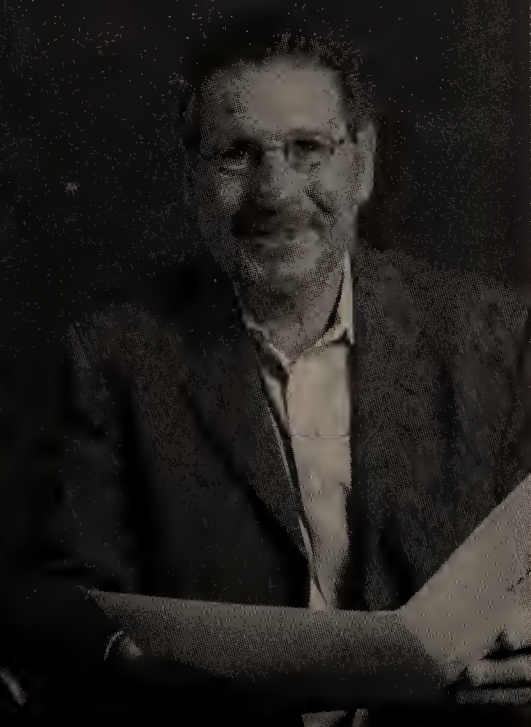
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The Erricos: Aging Bountifully On Dolores Street

By Jeff Kaliss

In 1962, when Nick Errico first examined the building he now owns, he found himself looking ahead to how he and his wife Jo would spend their retirement years. Now 86, Nick is finding his wise plans bearing fruit, as they do each spring all over his spacious back yard in the southernmost block of Dolores Street.

"There are lots of trees, with all kinds of blooms," he points out modestly during a brief sun-blessed tour. The menagerie includes lemon, cherry, nectarine, peach, fig, loquat, breadfruit, and Santa Rosa plum trees. Cacti, bearing delectable pears, loom overhead. And there's much more, closer to the ground.

"I've got two different kinds of escarole, and over here is the green radicchio," Nick continues. "I cook them, I steam them or boil them just a little bit, then I fry some garlic in a little bit of oil and simmer." Green onions are sprouting, and in pots, watercress and red and green lettuce.

A bounty of colors, from roses and both outdoor and indoor orchids (in a little greenhouse), complement the flavors with which both Nick and Jo enhance their meals. "It's mostly Italian food," says Jo, "and sometimes I put my own touch in it. The boys think I'm a real good cook."

The "boys" are their two sons—Mario, 64, and Greg, 58—both of whom live in the North Bay, close enough to drop in on their parents on breaks from their own families and gigs in the music business. Mario is a valued assistant to reclusive rock legend Sly Stone, who lives in a rented mansion in the hills of Napa County. Greg, the original drummer in Sly's hit-making '60s band the Family Stone, works as both a producer and a performer from his home near Petaluma. "If I invite a few of their friends and do a dinner party, they love it," says their mom.

The family's musical and culinary tendencies extend back to their roots in the Italian region of Calabria. There, in the town of Verbicaro, near the "sole" of Italy's boot, "my father was a drummer," Jo points out. "He played with the town band, for funerals and saints' days and whatever." Jo was born in North Beach, after her father emigrated.

Nick's father also came to North Beach early in the 20th century, but his mother remained behind in Verbicaro, where Nick was born. She worked in the rural environs while her son attended school. "She had taught me how to do things, and when I came home from school, I was about nine, ten years old, I would cook," says Nick, who retains some Italian spice in his accent. "And when she got home, everything was ready."

Schooling in Verbicaro continued only to the fifth grade, and Nick recalls that his father, communicating from San Francisco, wanted him to get agricultural work. "So I wrote the letter, 'You either send me a ticket or send me to a school, because I'm not gonna work on a farm.' And the next letter that came from him was the tickets for my mother, my sister, and I."

Nick's father (and Jo's as well) had secured shoe-related work in San Francisco, but Nick didn't want to follow in his dad's footsteps. Instead, he enrolled in school part-time and was referred by one of his fellow students to an Italian restaurant, where he gradually acquired skills in both waiting tables and conversing in English. Since his mother and Jo's mother had been friends in Verbicaro, Nick got to know Jo, who was three years his junior, particularly after his mother died in childbirth, in 1937, when he was just 16.

"He used to come over to our house, he



Nick and Jo Errico have nurtured an abundant backyard garden on Dolores Street, as well as two sons in the music industry: Greg Errico, the original drummer for Sly & the Family Stone, and Mario Errico, who works as Sly's personal assistant.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

was like one of the family," Jo remembers. "We used to argue, because he was just learning English and didn't know a lot of things, but my mother would say, 'We have to help him out.' We just kind of grew on each other, I guess."

Jo and Nick were married in October of 1941, and Mario was born the next year. Then Nick was recruited into the Second World War on a Navy aircraft carrier. He returned to his career as a waiter after the war, and served at some of the city's most prestigious restaurants, hotels, and clubs. In 1948, he and Jo welcomed their second son, Greg. While still a toddler, the future drummer was making his own way through his father's collection of 78 rpm recordings of Italian popular songs and opera.

The boys grew up as eager members of the first generation of rock 'n' roll. Mario left high school to join the Air Force. Before Greg graduated from Balboa High, he was earning money drumming for Freddie Stewart, Sly Stone's younger brother, at a club in the Excelsior. Greg was summoned in the late fall of 1966 to a meeting at the Stewart family home on Urbano Drive (near Ocean Avenue), where the talented elements of what would become Sly & the Family Stone were fused. It was an exciting sound, challenging to listeners of all ages.

"I said to Greg, 'I don't understand this,'" Jo remembers. "And he said, 'Mom, you just wait. One day, you're gonna hear things I've played on the radio, and you're gonna maybe see me on television.' And we did! You have to give it to him: he pursued his dream."

The dream was rewarded with an array of Top 40 hits and successful albums for Sly & the Family Stone in the late '60s and early '70s, culminating in mobbed live performances, including at Woodstock in 1969. Before and after Greg quit the band, in 1972, his brother Mario was an enthusiastic supporter, running occasional errands for the mercurial and demanding Sly.

Jo and Nick, transported by limousine to gigs at the Fillmore Auditorium and the Oakland Coliseum, sometimes hosted Italian feasts for the group. Sly would "make little remarks to Greg like, 'Your mom's no dummy,'" says Jo, "and I let him know that I wasn't a dummy. After all, my young son was traveling with him."

Over the decades, Jo and Nick relocated several times, from Russian Hill to the Outer Mission to Daly City. After becoming landlords of the Dolores Street property in 1962, they waited 23 years, until

they'd both stopped working, to remodel the building and move in themselves.

They've since availed themselves of Noe Valley's expanding and varied collection of fine Italian eateries, and Nick has kept himself moving along a daily walking route, with a cappuccino stop at Martha & Bros. He had to shorten the route four years ago after finding himself winded on the Church Street incline. A doctor's examination led to Nick's first surgery, a four-way heart bypass, from which he has recovered nicely. Jo's arthritis prompted the installation of an elevator chair, running from the front door up to their second-floor flat. But "the money we save by not having a car right now, it would pay for that in two years," Nick reasons. Another motivation to stay mobile is the couple's biennial journeys back to their Italian homeland, where they own property within a short walk of the sea.

Closer to home, Mario has offered to someday drive his parents up to visit Sly Stone in Napa, where the rolling hills and grape orchards are evocative of the Med-

iterranean countryside. The former band-leader turned 64 last month and seems ready to revive his career, celebrated with the rerelease by Sony this month of his first seven albums.

The elder Erricos have fond memories of Sly's parents, K.C. and Alpha Stewart, both of whom passed away in the past few years. Mrs. Stewart "was a lovely woman," says Jo, "and I know Sly misses her terribly. He tells Mario, 'Be nice to your mom, because it's awful when she's gone.'"

Veteran Voice writer Jeff Kaliss is writing *Family Affair*, a biography of Sly & the Family Stone, for Hal Leonard Books.



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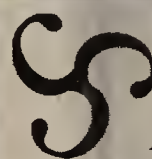
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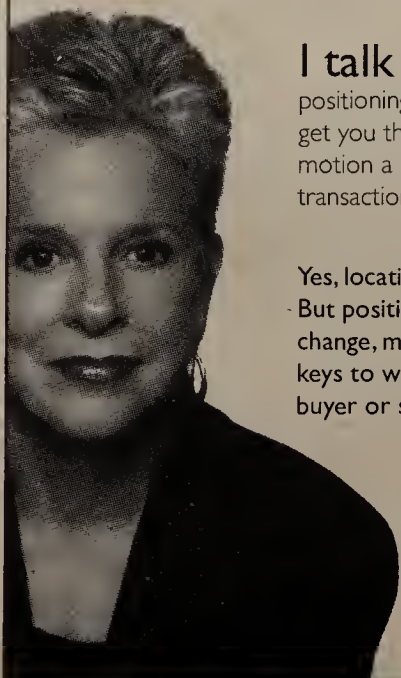
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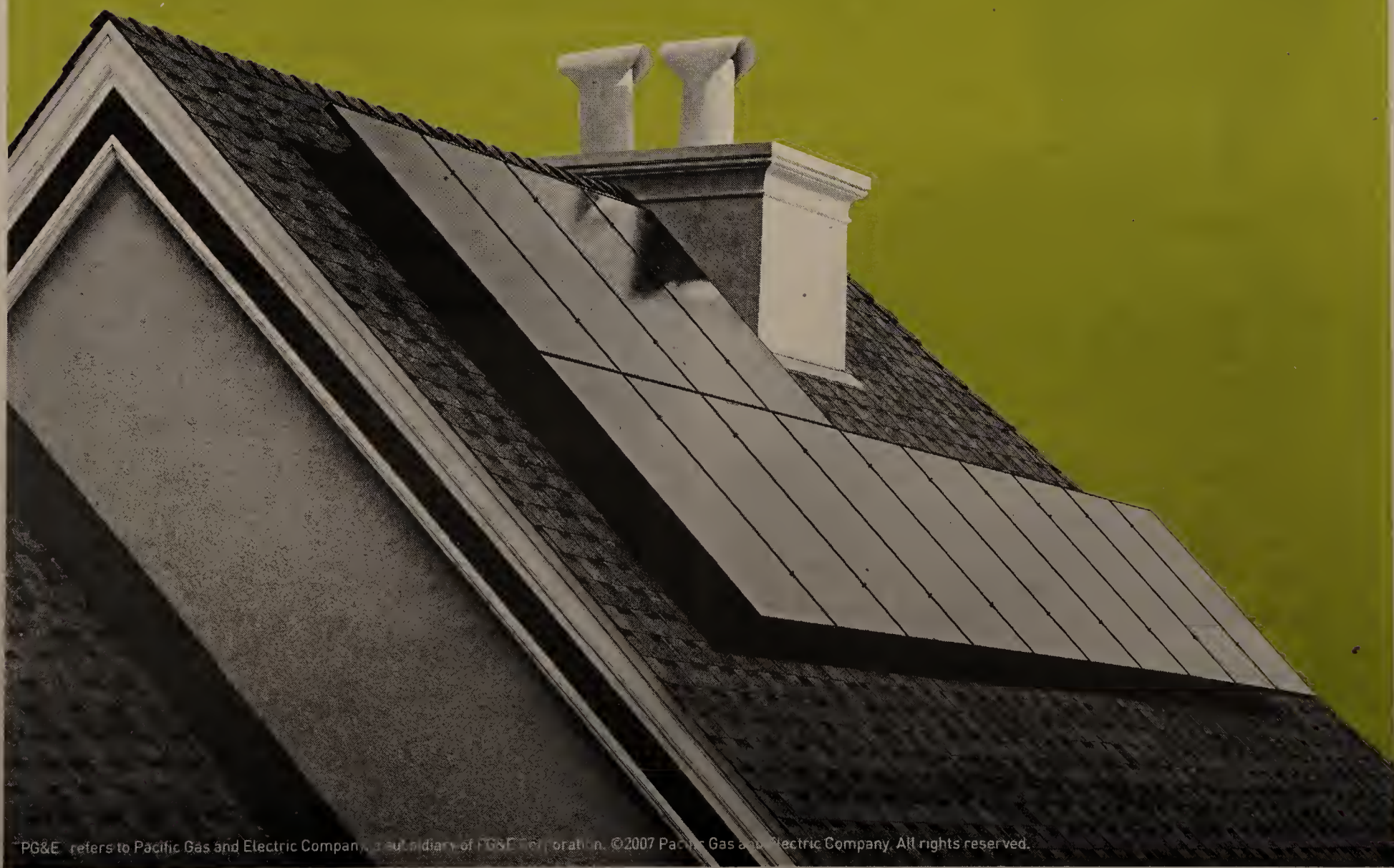
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• APRIL 2007 •

April 1, 15, 22 & 29 Erica Lann-Clark performs a solo COMEDY show, "Shopping for God." 3 pm. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia St. 800-838-3006; www.themarsh.org

April 1-29: Precita Eyes offers Mission Trail MURAL WALKS. Sat. & Sun., 11 am & 1:30 pm. Precita Eyes Mural Arts Center, 2981 24th St. Sat., 11 am, meet in Café Venice in 24th Street BART Plaza. 285-2287.

April 1-29: City Guides gives free WALKING TOURS all around the city. The Mission Dolores neighborhood tour meets Sundays at noon at the gold fire hydrant at Church and 20th. 557-4266; www.sfguides.org.

April 1-29: Try an introductory BUDDHIST MEDITATION class sponsored by Kadampa Buddhist Temple. Tuesdays, 7 to 8:30 pm. 3324 17th St. 503-1187.

April 2-6 & 9-13: The SF Zoo offers SPRING CAMP for kids, pre-K through sixth grade, featuring animal tours and crafts. Mon.-Fri., 9 am-noon or 4 pm. 1 Zoo Road. 753-7073; www.sfzoo.org.

April 2-30: Chris Sequeira's TAI CHI classes are at the Noe Valley Ministry at 6 pm on Mon. & Tues; 1021 Sanchez St. For the location of 10:15 am Wed. & Fri. classes, call 415-773-8185 or 650-756-6857.

April 2-30: The SF Library's BDDKMOBILE is open Mon. & Wed., 10:30 am-1 pm. 665 Elizabeth St. 557-4353.

April 2-30: Noe Valley SENIOR CENTER serves hot lunches for people over 60, on weekdays at 12:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 648-1030.

April 2-30: Visual Aid Artists sponsors a "Get Out of Jail Free" ART EXHIBIT. Reception April 12, 6-8 pm. SFLGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. 777-8242; www.visualaid.org.

April 3: Free day at the DE YDUNG Museum is a chance to see Vivienne Westwood's punk fashions and modernist Charles Sheeler's paintings. 9:30 am-5:15 pm. Golden Gate Park. 750-3614; www.thinker.org.

April 3: A DOCENT LECTURE on the exhibit "Masterpieces of French Jewelry" will be given at free day at the Legion of Honor, 34th Avenue & Clement. 1 pm. 750-3638.

April 3: Dr. Betty Carmack leads a free drop-in PET LOSS support group. 7:30-9 pm. SF/SPCA, 243 Alabama St. 554-3050.

April 3, 10, 17 & 24 Noe Valley Library sponsors LAPSITS, featuring stories, songs, and fingerplays for babies and toddlers, at 10:15 am. Preschool STORY TIME, for ages 3 to 5, starts at 11 am. Bethany UMC, 1268 Sanchez St. 647-8393; www.sfpl.org.

April 3, 10, 17 & 24: A women's COMING OUT support group welcomes women exploring sexuality issues. 7-8:30 pm. New Leaf, 103 Hayes St. 626-7000, ext. 448.

April 3-13: Eleven artists examine city life in an exhibit at the SFMDMA Artists Gallery. Tues.-Sat., 11:30 am-5:30 pm. Fort Mason, Building A. 441-4777; www.sfmoma.org.

April 3-26: The NOE STROLLS playgroup departs Holey Bagel Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11 am. 3872 24th St. www.noestrolls.com.

April 4: Michelle Tea hosts the ongoing RADAR SALON with Diane DiPrima and a surprise guest. 7-8:30 pm. Eureka Valley-Harvey Milk Branch Library, 3555 16th St. 355-5616; www.sfpl.org.

April 4: Poet LANGSTON HUGHES' 1940 autobiography, *The Big Sea*, is the April selection at Bird & Beckett's book club. 7 pm. 2788 Diamond St. 586-3733.

April 4: SF Conservatory of Music hosts "An Evening with FREDERICA VON STADE," with performances by voice students. 7:30 pm. SFCM Concert Hall, 50 Dak St. Call for reservations, 503-6275; www.sfcm.edu.

April 4-25: STORYTELLER Dot tells tales for children on Wednesdays from 3 to 4 pm. Cover to Cover, 1307 Castro St. 282-8080; www.covertocoversf.com.

April 4-June 30: Jean Sankey exhibits WATERCOLORS of park and street trees. Reception April 4, 5-7 pm. SF Botanical Garden, Golden Gate Park. 661-1316; www.sfbotanicalgarden.org.

April 5: Vittoria Repetto reads from her POETRY book *Not Just a Personal Ad*. 7:30 pm. Books Inc., 2275 Market St. 864-6777.

April 5, 12, 19 & 26: PRESCHOOL STORY TIME for ages 3-5 begins at 10:10 am, and a BILINGUAL LAPSIT for babies and toddlers starts at 11 am. Missidh Branch Library, 300 Bartlett St. www.sfpl.org.

April 6: TDDD LEJEUNE's "Don't Let Go of the Potato" is "a darkly comic Cajun coming-of-age tale." Fri. & Sat., 8 pm. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia St. 800-838-3006; www.themarsh.org.



Cuban jazz pianist Elio Villafraña performs with his quartet April 27 at the Noe Valley Music Series. Photo by Mark Stehle

April 6, 13 & 20: Bird & Beckett hosts LIVE JAZZ every Friday from 5 to 8 pm; Don Prell's Seabop Ensemble (April 6 & 20), the Jimmy Ryan Quartet (April 13), and the Henry Irvin Sextet with vocalist Dorothy Lefkowitz (April 27). 2788 Diamond St. 586-3733; www.bird-beckett.com.

April 7: Bring the kids, ages 7 and up, to a free BIRDING WALK. 10 am-noon. Meet at the bookstore near the Main Gate, Strybing Arboretum, Golden Gate Park. 661-1316; www.sfbotanicalgarden.org.

April 7: SF Botanical Garden's April PLANT SALE features spring bloomers. 10 am-1 pm. Strybing Arboretum, Golden Gate Park. 661-1316; www.sfbotanicalgarden.org.

April 7-29: Little Tree Gallery presents CHAD MDORE'S solo show of painting, drawing, and sculpture. 3412 22nd St. 643-4929; www.littletreegallery.com.

April 8: The Noe Valley Ministry raffles off a QUILT made by Irene Kaufman, as a fundraiser for the church. Tickets available at 1021 Sanchez on weekdays and Sunday mornings. 282-2317.

April 10: DAVE EGGERS and the Best American Committee, a group of high school students from 826 Valencia, read from *The Best American Nonrequired Reading*, a collection of the fiction, essays, journalism, and humor. 7 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

April 10, 17 & 24: Songs, stories, and rhymes for preschoolers are included in the afternoon STORY TIME at the Eureka Valley Library. 3:30 pm. 3555 16th St. 355-5616; www.sfpl.org.

April 10-May 23: TANGERINE ARTS, five women who work in various painting and printmaking media, exhibit their work in "Second Season" at Gallery Sanchez in the Noe Valley Ministry. Reception April 29, 3:30-5:30 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317; www.tangerinearts.net.

April 11: Quiet your mind at the Noe Valley Ministry's LABYRINTH WALK. 6:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

April 11: WILL FRANKEN performs a workshop of his new solo show, "Grandpa, It's Not Fitting." 8 pm. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia St. 826-5750; www.themarsh.org.

April 11: An AIDS MARATHON Rock Benefit at the Elbo Room features Low Red Land, Small Change Romeos, Ra Ra Rabbit, and Th' Moonlight Sexy. 9 pm. 647 Valencia St. 552-7788; www.elbo.com.

April 11, 18 & 25: POLITICAL ECONOMICS instructor David Giesen leads a free three-part "Land and Society" course addressing equality in housing, business, and spirituality. 6:30-8:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

April 12: St. Luke's Hospital holds a VDL-UNTEER orientation the second Thursday of the month. 3-5 pm. 3555 Cesar Chavez St. 641-6538; www.stlukes-sf.org.

April 12: Bay Area nominees will read from their work at the LAMBDA LITERARY AWARDS, which recognize excellence in LGBT writing. 5:30-7:30 pm. Main Library, 100 Larkin St. 557-4400; www.sfpl.org.

April 12: WRITERS from the Grotto introduce their upcoming workshops and seminars beginning April 16. 6 pm. 490 Second St., Suite 200. www.sfgrotto.org.

April 12: "San Francisco Notables," a celebrity PORTRAIT AUCTION and party to benefit Creativity Explored, includes likenesses of Jon Carroll, Alice Waters, and Dennis Richmond; musician Jonathan Richman will perform. 7-10 pm. 111 Minna Gallery, 111 Minna St. 863-2108; www.creativityexplored.org.

April 12-15: Intermedia performance collective DOUBLE VISION presents "To Futurism and Back Again." 8 pm. Dance Mission Theater, 3316 24th St. 287-0192; www.double-vision.biz/dancemission.

April 12-14 & 19-21: DAN HDYLE'S solo show about Nigerian oil politics, *Tings Dey Happen*, continues at the Marsh. Thurs. & Fri., 8 pm, Sat. 5 pm. 1062 Valencia Street. 826-5750; www.themarsh.org.

April 13: A WORKSHOP to create unique envelopes from "rescued" materials runs from 1 to 5 pm. SF Center for the Book, 300 DeHaro St. 565-0545; www.sfbcb.org.

April 13: Celebrate SAMUEL BECKETT's 101st birthday with jazz by the Jimmy Ryan Quartet and a reading by Scott Baker. 5:30 pm. Bird & Beckett Books & Records, 2788 Diamond St. 586-3733; www.bird-beckett.com.

April 13 & 14: The SAMBA dance troupe Hot Pink Feathers performs with Miss Banana Peel, Kitty Kitty Bang Bang, and ElectriKat. 8 pm. Shotwell Studios, 3252A 19th St. 289-2000; www.19loose.org.

April 13, 14, 15, 20 & 21: SFartsED Players performs the world premiere of Richard Rodgers' award-winning MUSICAL *The Yellow Wood*. Fri. & Sat., 7:30 pm; Sun., 2 pm. School of the Arts Theater, 555 Portola Drive. 695-5720; www.sfsota-pts.org.

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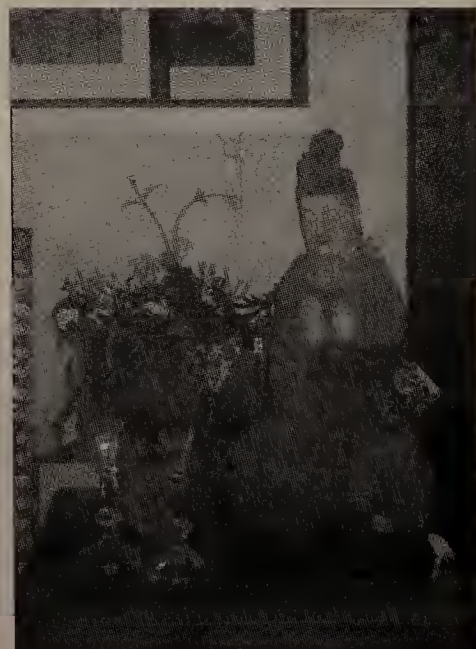
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• CALENDAR •



April 14: The Noe Valley Association invites you and your kids to a TREE-PLANTING along 24th Street. Gather at 8 am at the parking lot next to the Bank of America. Planting starts at 9 am; pizza party follows at noon. Debra Niemann, nemo@rcn.com.

April 14: Noe Courts Park's monthly WORK PARTY needs volunteers from 9 am to noon. For information, e-mail Cathy at cmtdompe@pacbell.net.

April 14: The group Friends of GLEN CANYON leads a spring flower walk along Islais Creek. 10 am. Meet behind the Glen Park Rec Center. Elk & Chenery. 648-0862.

April 14: Author Anastasia Goodstein discusses her new book about teenagers and TECHNOLOGY, *Totally Wired*. 7 pm. Cover to Cover, 1307 Castro St. 282-8080; www.covertocoversf.com.

April 14: TANGO No. 9 returns to the Noe Valley Music Series with violinist Catherine Clune and dancers Christy Cote and Chelsea Eng performing work by Astor Piazzolla. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238; www.noevalleymusicseries.com.

April 14 & 15: SEE JANE RUN celebrates its seventh anniversary with refreshments, a raffle, and a sale on women's fitness gear. Sat., 10 am-6 pm; Sun., 10 am-5 pm. 3910 24th St. 401-8338; www.seejanerun.com.

April 14 & 15: EARTH DAY at the California Academy of Sciences features "Art & Science for Children" (Sat., 10:30 am), "The Secret Life of Your Dinner" (Sat., noon), and giant sea bass feedings (Sun., 2 pm). 875 Howard St. 321-8000; www.calacademy.org.

April 14, 21 & 28: REBECCA FISHER performs "The Magnificence of Disaster," her tragicomic tale of the new South. 8:30 pm. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia St. 800-838-3006; www.themarsh.org.

April 15: The 26th annual Northern California BOOK AWARDS honors top fiction, non-fiction, poetry, translation, and children's literature. 1-2:30 pm. Main Library, 100 Larkin St. For information call Poetry Flash at 510-525-5476; www.poetryflash.org.

April 15: Bert Hill from the League of American Bicyclists teaches a "Street Skills BICYCLE SAFETY" course. 3-7 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

April 15: Cellist Leighton Fong, violinist Graeme Jennings, and pianist Christopher Jones perform an all-American program featuring the premiere of a Noe Valley CHAMBER MUSIC-commissioned piece by composer Cindy Cox, and other works by George W. Chadwick, Elliott Carter, and Charles Ives. 4 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 648-5236; www.nvcm.org.

April 15, 22 & 29: A three-session DOCENT training at the Maritime National Historical Park at Fisherman's Wharf runs from 10:30 am to 4:30 pm. To register call 561-7047; www.nps.gov/safr.

April 16: "Coaching Your Relationship from Your Role of PARENT" is the second in a series of coaching studios hosted by Ruth Oprean Cardillo. 1:30-2:30 pm. More Mojo Chiropractic, 1347 Church St. 550-1504.

April 16: The Older Women's League offers a free workshop examining HEART DISEASE. 6-8 pm. Second floor Herbst Hall, UCSF Mount Zion Hospital, 1600 Divisadero St. RSVP to 353-2668.

April 16: The community is invited to discuss plans for the MURAL at the Noe Valley Farmers' Market with designer/artist Mona Caron and Joel Pomerantz, project manager. 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 505-8255.

April 16: The Richmond/Ermet AIDS Foundation presents a benefit cabaret performance by the touring cast of *Jersey Boys*, the MUSICAL about the Four Seasons singing group. 7:30 pm. Club Fugazi, 678 Green St. 421-4222; www.BeachBlanketBabylon.com.

April 17: Kit Kennedy hosts a National POETRY MONTH celebration with featured poets Elz Cuya, Clara Hsu, Rich Schimpf, Jan Steckel, and Paul Watsky. 7-8:30 pm. Eureka Valley Library, 1 José Sarria Court. 355-5616; www.stpl.org.

April 17 & 24: The Eureka Valley Library holds infant/toddler LAPSITS. 10:30 am. 1 José Sarria Court. 355-5616; www.stpl.org.

April 18: The Noe Valley Democratic Club holds a panel discussion on the WAR IN IRAQ with former Iraqi diplomat Amer Arai and professors Stephen Zunes and Banalshah Keynoush. 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 641-5838.

April 18: Find out about black holes at a free lecture by Dr. Darren Croton sponsored by SF Amateur ASTRONOMERS. 8 pm. Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way. 554-9600; www.randallmuseum.org.

April 19: City College of San Francisco celebrates EARTH DAY with alternative fuel vehicles and visits from environmental organizations. 11 am-1:30 pm. CCSF, 50 Phelan Ave., Ram Plaza. 239-3580.

April 19-May 24: Learn to samba, rumba, or cha cha cha at six-week BALLROOM DANCING for couples classes. Thursdays at 7:30 pm. Forest Hill Christian Church, 250 Laguna Honda Blvd. 661-2746.

April 20: Professor Jim Goldner and alumni filmmakers Sandra Nettelbeck and Arthur Dong discuss "The Way We Were: A Celebration of Over 40 Years of FILM at SF State." 6 pm. Fine Arts Building, 1600 Holway Ave. 338-1629.

April 20: Kung Pao Kosher Comedy presents CAFÉ CON GOMEDY, featuring Beth Lisick, Andre the Wonderwoman, Nick Leonard, and six other stand-up comedians. 7:30 pm. Dolores Park Café, 501 Dolores St. 522-3737; www.doloresparkcafe.com.

April 21: Friends of Glen Canyon Park sponsors an Earth Day plant restoration WORK PARTY: tools, gloves, and a free lunch provided. Meet behind the Glen Park Rec Center, Elk & Chenery. 9 am. 648-0862.

April 21: BUG DAY, the Randall Museum's annual festival of insects, includes crafts, games, and live entertainment; bring a picnic lunch. 10 am-2 pm. 199 Museum Way. 554-9600; www.randallmuseum.org.

April 21: "Earth Stroll," a Crissy Field EARTH DAY adventure features a fitness walk, games, music, and live animals. 10 am-2 pm. 603 Mason St. 561-7690; www.crissyfield.org/center.

April 21: The annual competition and crowning of the Junior King and Queen of CARNAVAL begins at 1 pm. Everett Middle School, 450 Church St. 920-0125.

April 21: Noe Valley Music Series presents BANJO player Bill Evans' "String Summit," with guitarist Scott Nygaard, dobro player Michael Witcher, bassist Cindy Browne, and fiddlers Tristan and Tashina Clarridge. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238; www.noevalleymusicseries.com.

April 21-22: Alvarado holds its two-day RUMMAGE SALE. Regular sale is Sat., 9 am-3 pm; then Sun., 9 am-1 pm, is Bargain Clear-Out Day, when for a small fee you can take out as much as you can carry. 695 Douglass St. 695-5695; www.alvaradoschool.net.

April 24: The SF History Association sponsors a talk and photo show celebrating the CENTENNIAL of the "new" San Francisco, 101 years after the 1906 Earthquake. 8 pm. Mission High Auditorium, 16th & Church. 750-9986; www.sanfranciscohistory.org.

April 25: Marine biologist Dr. Claudio Campana discusses the creation of the world's first OPEN OCEAN park in "The Sea and Sky of Patagonia." 6:30 pm. San Francisco Zoo, 1 Zoo Road. 522-9702; www.sfzoo.org.

April 26: ArtSpan holds a benefit AUCTION. 6:30-9 pm. California Modern Gallery, 1035 Market Street. www.artspan.org.

April 26: Learn SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING at a free class. 8-10 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 826-2287; sf-scottishdancers.org.

April 27: CUBAN JAZZ pianist Elio Villafra and Babatunde Lea, Jeff Brennan, and Howard Wiley perform at the Noe Valley Music Series. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238; www.noevalleymusicseries.com.

April 28: Noe Valley Music Series presents Gamelan Sekar Jaya, a 20-piece BALINESE GAMELAN orchestra, performing with dancers and special guests. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238; www.noevalleymusicseries.com.

April 28 & 29: Many Noe Valley artists are exhibiting their latest work at the Hunters Point Shipyard Spring OPEN STUDIOS. 11 am-6 pm. www.springopenstudio.com.

April 29: The 10th annual GLEN PARK FESTIVAL features arts and crafts booths, entertainment, food, and an all-day raffle, to benefit the Glen Park Branch Friends of the Library and various children's programs. 10 am-4:30 pm. Diamond & Chenery. 835-2112; www.glenparkfestival.com.

April 29: A Día del Niño (Day of the Child) FESTIVAL offers live music, Latin dancing, crafts, games, animal encounters, and presentations by zookeepers in both Spanish and English. 11 am-3 pm. San Francisco Zoo, 1 Zoo Road. 522-9702; www.sfzoo.org.

April 29: Friends of Sharon Art Studio hosts "Joie de Vivre," its annual fundraiser ART AUCTION. 2-6 pm. 1032 Irving St. 753-7005; www.sharonartstudio.org.

April 30: The Cutting Ball Theater performs "UBU ROI," Alfred Jarry's 1896 play that caused riots in Paris. 7 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

MAYDAY! MAYDAY!

Your calendar items may already be late. The deadline for the May issue of the *Noe Valley Voice*, which will be distributed in Noe Valley on or before May 4, is Monday, April 16. E-mail calendar@noevalleyvoice.com. Or you can write *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Noe Valley events take priority, but we try to squeeze in as many other items as possible.

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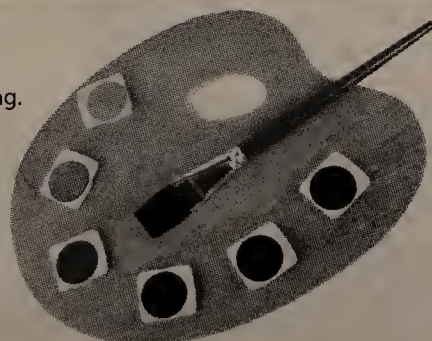
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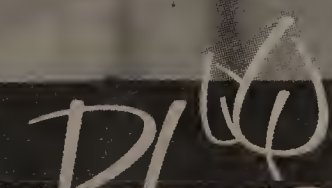
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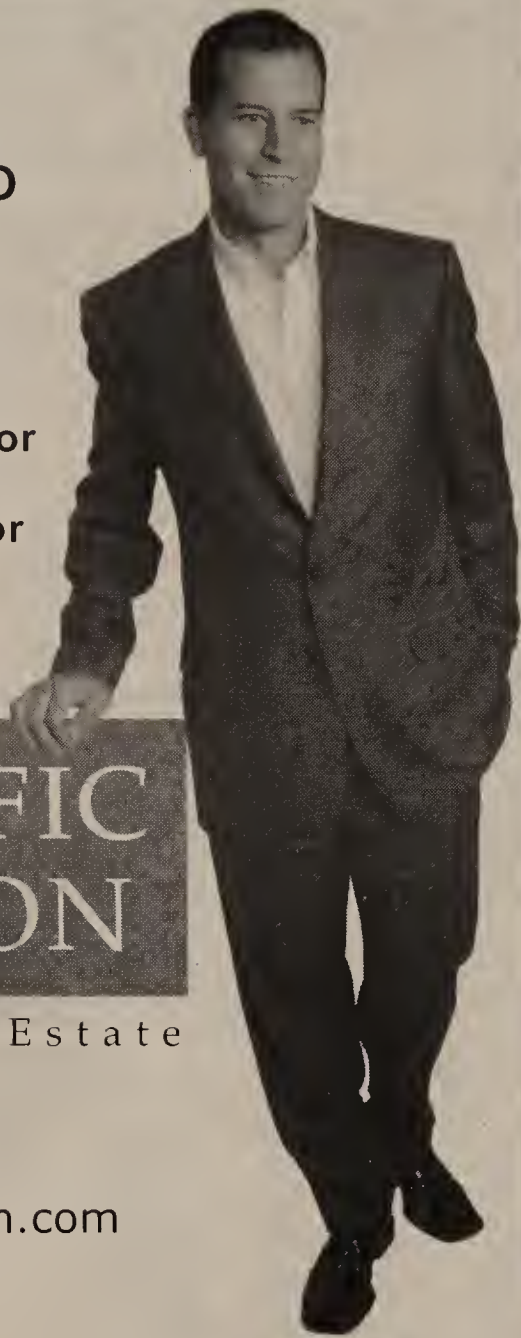
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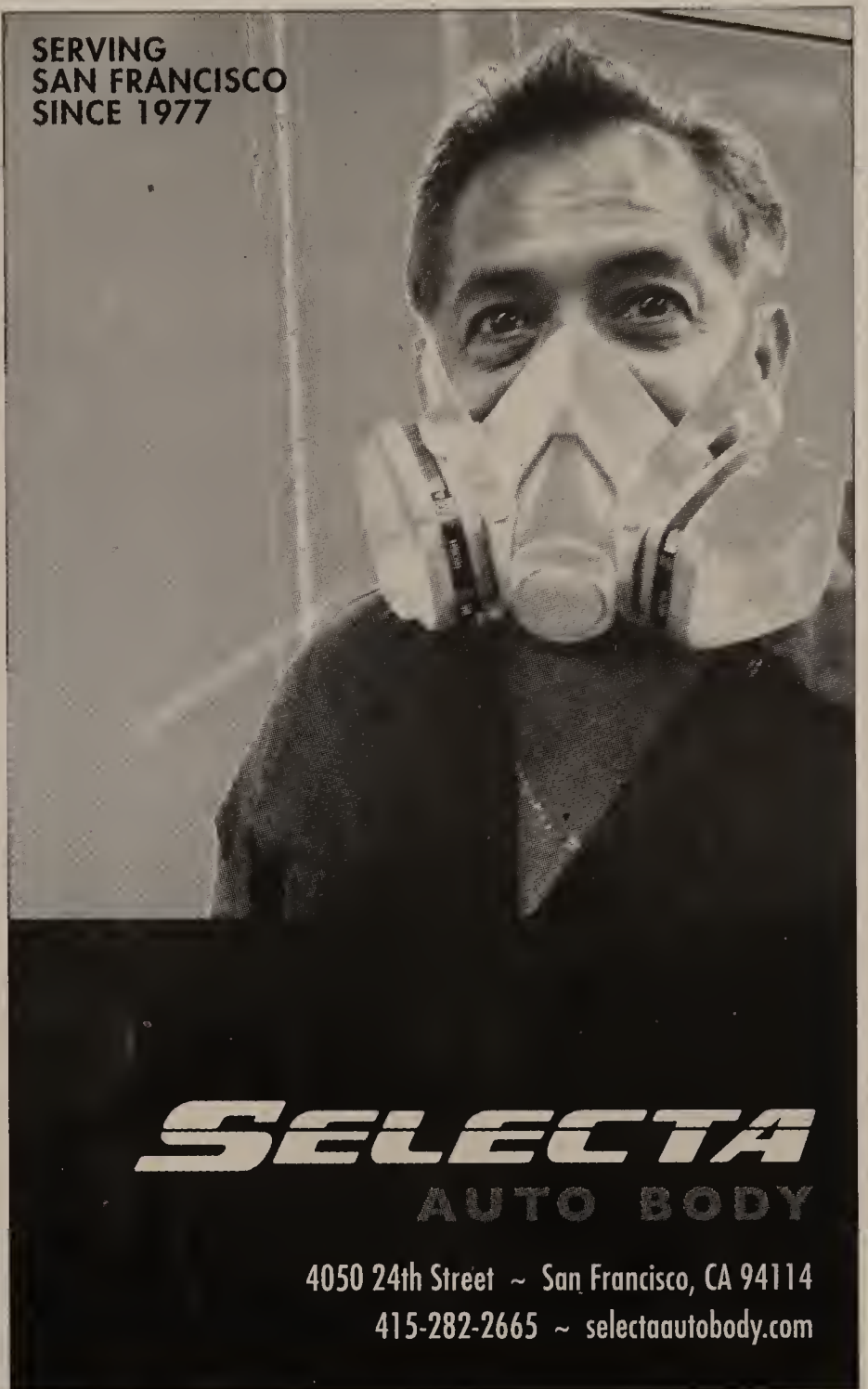


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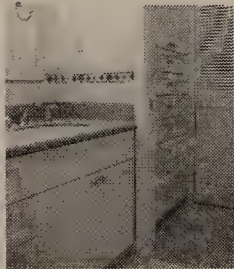
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Illustrated Reminiscences
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The Crash of '95

Editor's Note: When this essay was first published, in the May 1995 Voice, Noe Valley residents were recovering from an extremely wet winter.

By Florence Holub

During this past winter, one of the rainiest in San Francisco history, my man Leo and I managed to stay high and dry in our old (circa 1907) hillside home. But as the rain fell day after day, we spent many anxious moments looking out the window, watching the water rush down 21st Street to Church, and wondering how much more the earth could take!

We found out just how much one late afternoon at the end of January. We were sitting in front of the television set, scanning the weather report, when we heard a loud crash outside the house. Naturally we dashed to the window to see what had happened.

There in the front yard, our newly-built redwood fence, which separated our property from the neighbor's up the hill, now had a hole the size of a washing machine, with a big chunk of concrete projecting through it.

It was immediately clear that the massive retaining wall next door had collapsed, sending a large fragment through our fence into the area where we keep our garbage cans.

I gulped, realizing that I could have been the target instead of the garbage cans—one of which was now severely dented—had I been depositing the kitchen refuse at the time of the incident.

Leo also remembered with relief that he had started, but left undone, the task of sweeping out an accumulation of dry leaves from the ill-fated area earlier in the day.

This was indeed a close call! Still, we felt fortunate to have sustained so little damage. It appeared as if only six redwood boards would need to be replaced.



Florence's photographer husband, Leo Holub, took these shots of their next-door neighbor's driveway before and after the calamitous "Crash of '95."

Down at street level, however, we were shocked to see the extent of the destruction to our neighbor's property. A jumble of granite, mud, and rocks had crashed down on top of a car that had been parked in his carport for months awaiting repairs. The car, a 1970 Honda normally measuring 4½ feet in height, was now compacted to 2 feet and almost completely covered with broken slabs of concrete, dirt, and debris.

The neighbor was not at home, so Leo left him a note, just in case he returned after dark and failed to notice the wreckage. It would have been easy to overlook because the rubble was obscured by a thick growth of ivy, which spilled over a wall at the front of the property.

It was still raining the next morning when we noticed our other neighbors Angus and Mariann Pera searching and calling out for their cat Sammy, who had been missing since the night before. They were afraid he had been buried in the landslide, for Sammy had the habit of sitting like a sphinx on the hood of any stationary vehicle.

After half an hour of calling and still no kitty, the Peras became apprehensive. But finally they spotted their cat lounging on the front stairs of Dr. Jerome Goldstein's Victorian down the street.

In his youth, Sammy had been a fine-looking feline, but now that he was almost 18 years of age, he had lost most of his teeth, and his grey and white mottled coat was shabby and worn.



Everyone suspected Sammy of being a bit senile, because he no longer had the good sense to come in out of the rain. He would just lie about, smiling so benignly that few passersby could resist petting him or uttering a few words of comfort.



Upon retrieving their cat, the Peras carried him home to dry out in a warm corner. Only a few days later, Sammy expired peacefully during a catnap, with that same blissful smile on his face which had always extended from whisker to whisker.

Over the next week, Webb Hill, owner of the property next door, could often be seen outside, assessing the damage and considering his options for stabilizing the slope.

Webb told us that on the morning of the slide, he had been standing between his Honda and the wall that gave way, removing the battery from the car. He was counting his blessings, he said, despite the fact that he now faced the headache of reconstruction.

Meanwhile, the rains continued relentlessly, causing mud and rocks to slough off into the open pit where the car was entombed.

A few years earlier, the recessed floor and walls of the carport had supported a tall, tilting wooden garage, but Webb had been forced to raze it when it became unsafe.

Still visible above the rubble, on the rear wall, are the shadowy remains of a staircase that once led from the house to the street-level garage below.

I remember when our friends the Hacketts lived there 30 years ago. They called it the "mine shaft," because of the steep, dark descending shortcut to their auto. (Patricia Hackett was then a music educator at San Francisco State. Her husband, J.W. Hackett, is the celebrated haiku poet who wrote much of his work while living in Noe Valley.)

After the January cave-in, the "mine shaft" became a traffic-stopper. Some motorists driving past would come to a dead stop, back up to get a better view, then shake their heads woefully as they departed.

Others took no notice at all. A month passed before one of our neighbors rang the doorbell to ask us when the incident had occurred and if anyone had been in the vehicle.

One afternoon in March a police car veered into our driveway in such an urgent manner that we feared we had erred in the eyes of the law. We were quickly mollified, however, when we found that the officers merely wished to learn the details regarding the wrecked car and to offer their services if needed.

On another occasion we saw a group of young Latino men peering under the ivy and laughing mirthfully. *Un pronto low-rider!*

Nowadays, whenever we have guests, we lift the ivy and show them the Honda. The sight never fails to elicit a stream of laughter because the front of the automobile has taken on an almost human expression—a squashed-down face with eyes (the headlights), nose (the parking lights), and a wide, grimacing mouth (the bumper), which seems to be saying, "Ouch!"

For months we have been able to inspect the wreckage daily, by looking through the hole in our fence. So we were heartened on March 21, the vernal equinox, to see a swatch of brilliant color on top of the debris.

A hardy, solitary Montbretia plant, the kind that grows in the older gardens of Noe Valley, had taken root, thrusting its sword-like leaves and orange and yellow blooms upward as if to announce that in spite of everything, spring had arrived at last!

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NINA'S NUGGETS

During Nina Youkelson's 37 years as head teacher and director of the Noe Valley Co-op Nursery School on Sanchez Street, she and the children shared a lot of exciting adventures. Here's one episode where the names have been changed to protect the innocent.

The Poison Pellets

By Nina Youkelson

Grandma was a rotund woman who had difficulty walking. Marcie, her granddaughter, was a lithe, quick little dragonfly of a girl, and when Grandma took Marcie to nursery school—three blocks from home—Marcie was always way ahead of her. Adventurous little Marcie, only 4 years old, ran, skipped, and hopped down the street. But she always waited at the curb for Grandma to catch up before they crossed the street together.

One day, on the way to school, Marcie saw some green candy-looking things on the sidewalk. Since she already had some candy in her pocket to share with her friends at school, she added to her stash by picking up and pocketing the small green "candies" on the ground. Grandma slowly lumbered along behind.

Once at school, Marcie eagerly took handfuls of candy from her pockets and offered some to her two best friends, Ellie and Nancy. Around the three girls children rode trikes, jumped, and roller-skated: everybody was active, noisy, and happy. But a sharp-eyed parent in the room saw what Marcie was offering to her friends. She recognized the green

pellets as rat poison, and brought Marcie, Ellie, and Nancy to me to see if it could be determined if they had eaten any. None of them was forthcoming with specific information. They had eaten some candy, they didn't know which kind, and so on in that vein. I decided to call the poison control number. (If you ever need it, it's 1-800-222-1222.)

A doctor answered and, after listening to my description of the situation, asked if we had Ipecac syrup in our first-aid kit. We had it, but it had expired long ago. She told us there was no time to lose, we should take the three girls to the nearest hospital with an emergency room: St. Luke's on Valencia Street.

The doctor at Poison Control called St. Luke's to warn them of our arrival. I asked Rose, a parent working at the school that day, to come with us. They were ready for us when we arrived.

The three girls stood together holding hands as the intake nurse asked them their names. *Ellie, Nancy, Marcie*, they whispered. We were ushered inside an examining room with two beds on which were arrayed a great number of buttons and cranks. Marcie, of course, exhibiting the same kind of curiosity that was responsible for all of us being in that room, pushed every button, turned every crank, and was delighted when the bed on which she was sitting went up and down, lights blinked, and equipment beeped and groaned.

Then a nurse entered with a tray upon which were three cans of soda, each with a clear, translucent straw. "Girls," she said. "The doctor said you should drink this soda." To Rose and me she added, sotto voce, that there was charcoal in the soda which would absorb the impurities in their stomachs but they had to drink all of it.

Now I knew that Ellie and Marcie would drink their sodas, and I also knew



Sinead Hinchon, Katie Schmidh, and Sallyann Hinchon were not involved in the "Case of the Poison Pellets"—we promise—but they no doubt created their own candy-inspired capers before graduating from the Noe Valley Co-op Nursery School. Photo courtesy Nina Youkelson

that Nancy would not drink hers. She was the kind of kid who only ate what I called "white food": french bread (no crusts), noodles (no sauce of any kind), and probably, if she was really hungry, mashed potatoes. Her parents, at their wit's end to get their daughter to eat something green—or yellow or orange—had bribed her, promised her the sun, moon, and stars, and threatened and cajoled, but Nancy was firm in her conviction that none of those other foods would ever pass her lips.

I watched Nancy as she slowly and with great suspicion sipped the soda until she saw the liquid rising in the straw. It was *black!* Well, that did it. She put the soda can down and stated, "I'm not drinking that." I knew she wouldn't, and I also knew she had to. Though the other girls, taking their cue from Nancy, complained about drinking the "black soda," they managed to drink it down.

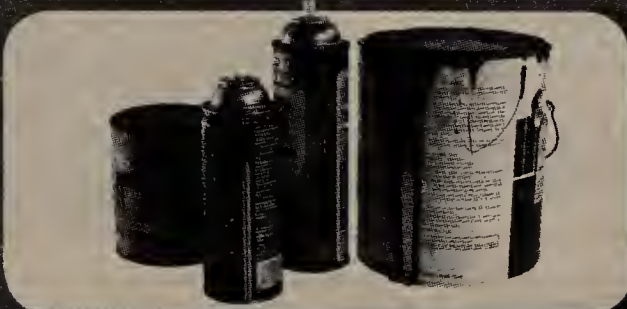
Rose and I went to work on Nancy, pleading, explaining that she *had* to or

she would get really sick, and giving her instructions on exactly *how* to drink it: "Slowly, Nancy, a little tiny sip at a time," and "Hold your nose."

Nothing, of course, worked. Nancy sat there resolute, blue eyes staring straight ahead, hands folded in her lap. We tried for an hour, to no avail.

Then in walked the doctor. He walked up to Nancy and said in a loud stern voice, "Nancy, if you don't drink this, I will have to put a tube down your nose to go into your stomach. It isn't pleasant, but I will be forced to do it if you don't drink this. You have 10 minutes!" And then he left the room. It was very quiet. Then Nancy reluctantly lifted the can up to her mouth, her blue eyes filled with tears, and slowly, slowly she sipped at the straw until she had emptied the can. Rose and I praised her extravagantly, and then we took the three girls back to school.

You can bet that Marcie got a lecture about picking up things on the street! ■



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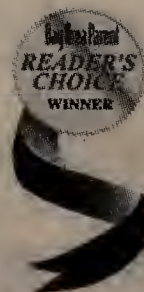
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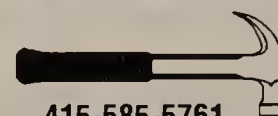
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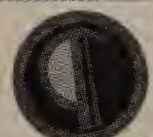
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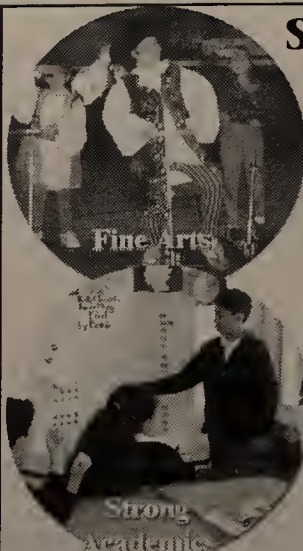
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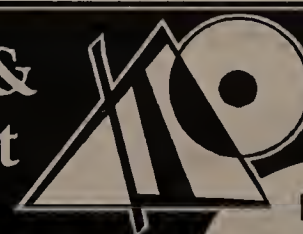
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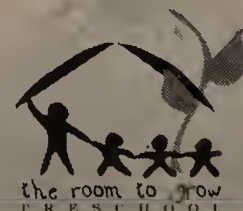
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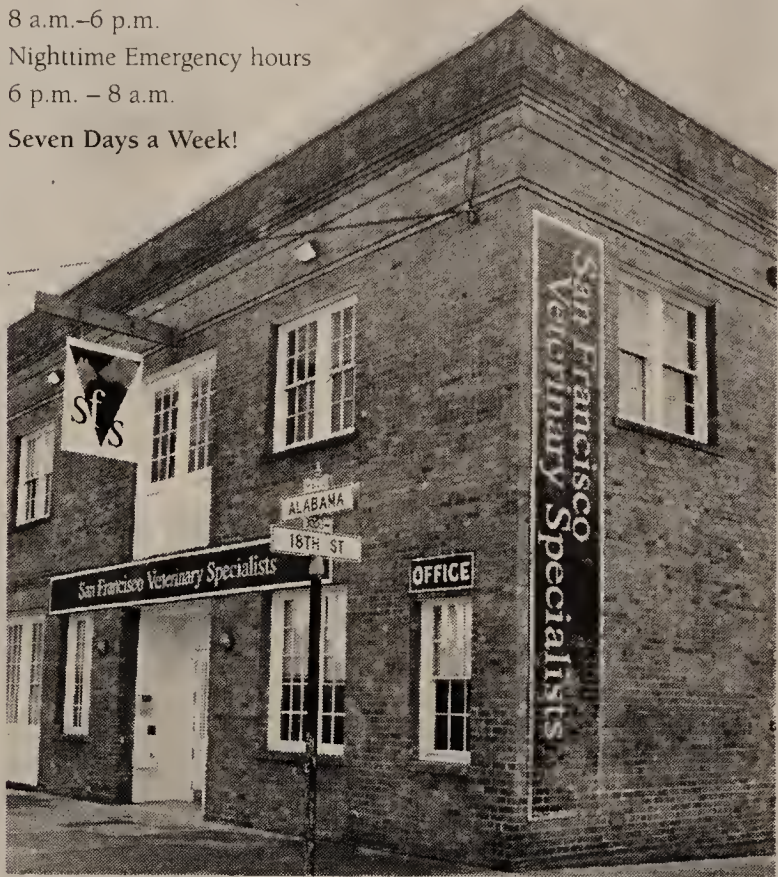
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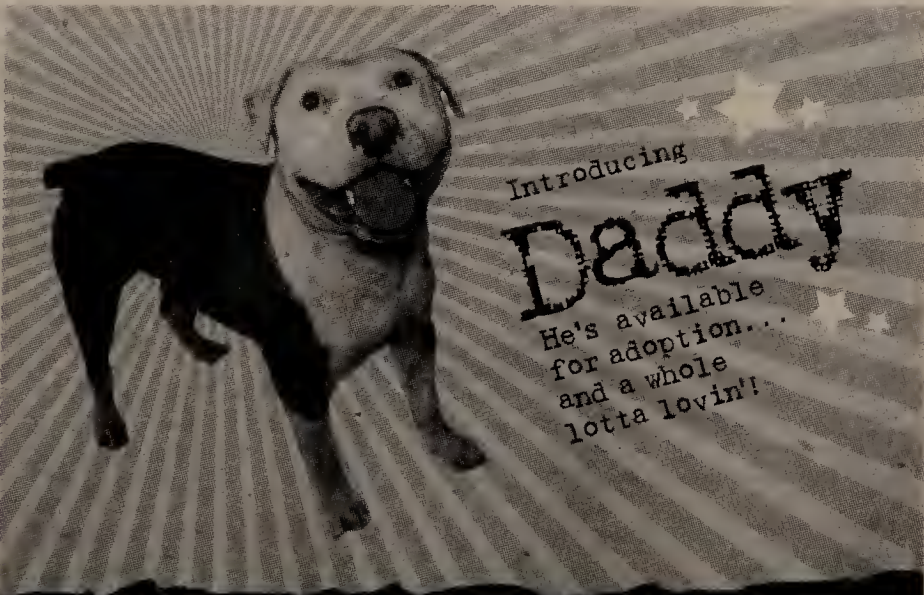
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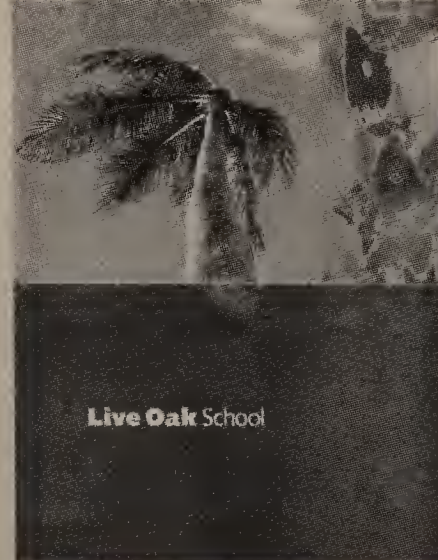
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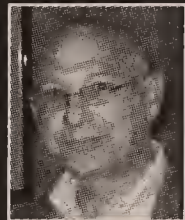
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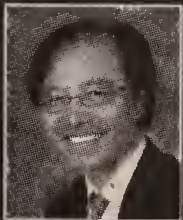
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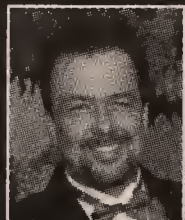
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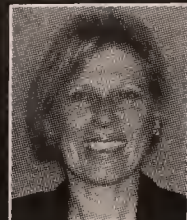
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SCHOOL REPORT

Here's the scoop from volunteers and parents at Alvarado Elementary, Fairmount Elementary, and James Lick Middle School.

ALVARADO

From Trash to Treasure

The much-loved Alvarado Rummage Sale is coming to Noe Valley on Saturday, April 21, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and Sunday, April 22, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday is the regular Rummage Sale, and Sunday is our famous Bargain Clear-Out and Cleanup Day, when people pay a small admission fee to enter and then take out as much as they can carry, lug, roll, or drive away. All money raised goes toward enrichment programs and resources at Alvarado.

If you're doing your spring cleaning and want to donate the used or new stuff that is crowding your closets and cupboards, bring it to the school on the two preceding Saturdays, April 7 and April 14, between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. (No computers, stuffed animals, mattresses, metal furniture, or broken electronics, please.) Get rid of that clutter and help out a great school.

Alvarado Auction a Great Success

March 3 was a beautiful night at Fort Mason, and there was plenty of food, fun, and fine art for everyone—and lots of bargains, too. The Not-So-Silent Auction is a tremendous amount of work for those involved, but it's all worth it since the auction is one of the most successful fundraising events at Alvarado. Thanks to everyone who helped support this truly enjoyable event through their donations, labor, and participation.

Fantastic Fun with Fighting Kites!

Alvarado families will enjoy a fabulous kite-building workshop on Saturday, April 14, led by Marissa Kunz and Dan Stingle. If you're lucky, you'll see some amazing Asian fighting kites skirmishing in the neighborhood later this month!

Students Read to Raise Money

The 2007 Read-a-thon was a success by any measure! One hundred and twenty-one students participated this year, reading for a total of 77,358 minutes to raise over \$4,500 (so far) for the school. Donations, ranging from \$2 to \$370, are still coming in.

Don't Miss the Spring Carnival

Come eat, play games, win prizes, cakewalk, do crafts, and enjoy art work and performances by Alvarado students at the 2007 Spring Carnival. We're excited to be back on our home turf for this year's carnival, which will take place on Saturday, May 19, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. We hope to see incoming, outgoing, and continuing members of the Alvarado community on hand to enjoy music, face-painting, delicious fare, and more.

—Dan Willhite

FAIRMOUNT

All Immersion, All the Time

Big changes are coming to Fairmount next fall. As mentioned in last month's School Report, a significant increase in demand for the two-way Spanish-immersion program resulted in more than 128 requests for the 40 available seats in the kindergarten program.

For the past two years, Principal Karling Aguilera-Fort has proposed a vision

of Fairmount as a complete Spanish-immersion school instead of the current two-thirds Spanish-immersion, one-third English student enrollment.

After hearing an impassioned presentation by Aguilera-Fort, the school district agreed to adopt the plan, beginning with the kindergarten class in the 2007-2008 school year.

All current students in the English-based classes will remain at the school as the all-immersion program is rolled out one year (and one grade) at a time.

"I envision Fairmount as a community school, as a school of languages, as a school for the arts. But most importantly, I envision Fairmount as a school of academic excellence for all our students," says Aguilera-Fort. "When the entire school community is unified around one Spanish-immersion program, teachers and students will be able to work fully toward their potential."

After the rollout is complete, Fairmount will be the second all-Spanish immersion school in the district, joining its Mission District neighbor Buena Vista Elementary.

In another show of support for the Spanish-immersion approach, the district expanded the number of incoming sixth-grade Spanish-immersion seats from one-third to two-thirds of the sixth-grade class. The move opens more ongoing immersion learning opportunities to graduates of all five elementary schools with Spanish-immersion programs.

The district also agreed to expand the Mission High School Spanish-immersion program to include the sophomore year, meaning that within two years the school district will for the first time have a K-12 continuum for Spanish immersion.

FiestaVal Approaches

Fairmount families are preparing for the biggest party of the year, FiestaVal, from noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 19. Ballet Folklorico and music performances, a silent auction, kids' games including the renowned obstacle course, and homemade tamales and other treats draw crowds to the school each year for our spring celebration.

Our auction items include donations from neighborhood favorites Lovejoy's Tea Room, Kookez Café, Regent Thai, Savor, and Terra Mia. We would love to have every Noe Valley business donate a dinner, coffee, or knickknack to FiestaVal, since Noe items are always our biggest sellers (and a great way for businesses to get their names seen). Other items so far have come in from Harbin Hot Springs, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Divisadero Car Wash, the San Francisco Asian Art Museum, and Aquarium by the Bay. Donation items can be sent to FiestaVal, Fairmount School, 65 Chenery Street, San Francisco, CA 94131. Or call Tee Minot at 415-203-4252.

Fairmount Goes on the Air

On Friday, March 9, a group of young writers and poets from Christina Velasco's fifth-grade class made their debut on radio. Velasco and her students were invited to KPFA's Valencia Street studio to participate in *La Onda Bajita* (the Short Wave). They read their poems and articles in Spanish and explained why they felt inspired to write about global warming, gang awareness, and the importance of environmental education.

Aguilera-Fort was also present and talked to the show's hosts about the importance of learning a second language and being able to "articulate your ideas, your feelings, and your knowledge in more than one language."

The presence of the students' voices in the media demonstrated once again that Fairmount students are exposed to a rich world of learning opportunities.

—Tom Ruiz

JAMES LICK

Peace Garden Plans Taking Shape

The inaugural phase of the new James Lick Peace Garden begins this month with a PTSA workday and a writing and art project in our eighth-grade core classes. The new garden will complement the building's art deco architecture and include new trees (palms and flowering trees), ornamental shrubs and ground-covers, planter urns at the front entry, granite benches, art walls, and an irrigation system. Students will explore their perceptions of the school's shared values and interpret them in ceramics. The resulting works of art will be installed on the garden walls as a legacy to the school from this year's graduating class. Successive classes will add to the project.

According to landscape architect and James Lick parent James Stickley, "The overarching theme of the garden is peace. It's meant to be a way for the outgoing graduating classes to leave their legacy behind. We also hope to have the students involved with some community outreach and in the actual installation of the garden."

Stickley has helped guide members of the PTSA through the planning, design, and budgeting of the project. A San Francisco Community Challenge grant and donations from Friends of Noe Valley, Noe Valley Farmers' Market, James Lick PTSA, and individual donors will fund much of the initial construction, but more money is still needed for the first phase of the project. Please contact the school if you would like to help us create this beautiful addition to the community.

Classes Combine to Stage Grease

James Lick students are rehearsing for a production of the 1972 musical *Grease*. The project will be directed by a collaboration of our elective teachers: Mr. Stookey, Visual Arts and Drama; Mr. Davis and Mr. Storbeck, Music; Ms. Vela, Dance; and Ms. Jones, Peer Resources. The students will stage a dress rehearsal and student shows prior to the main performances in our auditorium on the weekend of June 1 and 2. Tickets go on sale in May.

Time to Give Back

The James Lick Middle School Band will perform at the Great American Music Hall in "Blue Bear Live," an annual benefit concert for Blue Bear School of Music's youth education programs, on Saturday, May 12, at 8 p.m. For more information go to www.bluebearmusic.org.

Congratulations to our citywide Science Fair winners. The sixth-graders who

won awards were Patricio Trejo, second place; Alicia Mana, third place; and Morgan Dang, Aaron O'Hearn, DeKimbey Lamb-Lewis, and Ashoka Alvarez, honorable mention. Eighth-grader Alazan Flores won an honorable mention, too.

CSI: James Lick

Our students became crime investigators as they explored the latest offerings at our annual Book Fair during the week of March 19 to 23. In addition to the usual book sales, this year's fair featured mysteries for students to solve and daily prizes.

James Lick Celebrates 75th

Save the date for our 75th Anniversary Fete on Saturday, May 12, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the school. Preliminary plans include a carnival and food; dedication of the new Peace Garden; and a school history presentation.

The 75th-anniversary-edition yearbooks are selling out fast! This year's theme is "Then & Now," focusing on how things have changed over the years, with interviews and reflections by James Lick alumni. Contact yearbook adviser Tobi Hacker to order your copy.

Wish List: We're still looking for pictures, yearbooks, trophies, report cards, stories from neighbors, parents, or grandparents who attended the school, and any other artifacts of our school's rich history. If you can help, contact Chris Loughran at chris@gokid.org or Leonor Jackson at LJackson99@comcast.net.

—Sue Cattoche



SCHOOL CONTACTS

Alvarado Elementary School
Gene Barresi, Principal
625 Douglass Street at Alvarado
415-695-5695
www.alvaradoschool.net

Fairmount Elementary School
Karling Aguilera-Fort, Principal
65 Chenery Street at Randall
415-695-5669
www.fairmountschoolpta.org

James Lick Middle School
Carmelo Sgarlato, Principal
1220 Noe Street at 25th Street
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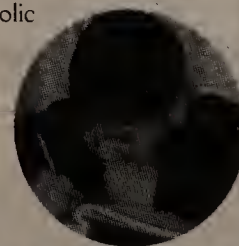
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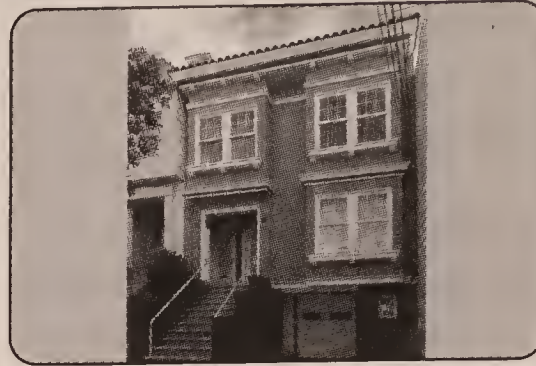


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Victorian Era, two-unit building in Noe Valley's best location. This unique property has a two-level owner's unit with a great flow of light through the open layout. It features three bedrooms, two baths, a sunny kitchen and breakfast room that opens to a deck. The lower unit has two bedrooms, one bath, hardwood floors, many of the original details, and opens onto the quiet, landscaped garden. The building has two-car parking, ample storage spaces and is only one and one-half blocks from the hip 24th Street commercial strip. This property offers Noe Valley living at its finest!

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Easter Morning, April 8

Service Celebrating the Resurrection, 10:30 a.m.
Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Brunch, Noon

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Wednesday, April 11, 6:15 p.m.

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MORE BOOKS TO READ

A couple of highlights in this month's book list, provided by San Francisco librarians Pam Ow, Carol Small, and Sharon Dezurick (and *Voice* bookworm Karol Barske), are a novel about the father of Mark Twain's most famous character, Huckleberry Finn, and a children's story about three little dragons planning a birthday party. To search for these books, or for DVDs and CDs, call or stop by a branch library or visit the San Francisco Public Library online at www.sfppl.org. Be aware that the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library on Jersey Street is closed for a seismic retrofit until early 2008. For information, call 557-4400.

Adult Fiction

■ Using Boccaccio's *Decameron* as a template, Jane Smiley satirizes a group of Hollywood characters who take refuge in a hillside villa at the time of the U.S. invasion of Iraq, in her new *Ten Days in the Hills*.

■ Jon Clinch's debut novel, *Finn*, a prequel to Mark Twain's Mississippi River novels, tells the tale of Huckleberry Finn's black-sheep father, a bigoted drunkard who dies a mysterious premature death.

■ Dave Eggers' *What Is the What: The Autobiography of Valentino Achak Deng*, is a partly fictionalized memoir about a "Lost Boy" from the Sudanese civil war, who suffered many perils along his 15-year journey through the refugee camps of Kenya and Ethiopia to his eventual home in Atlanta.

■ In the two novellas that comprise *Suite Française*, Irene Némirovsky recounts life in France in the early 1940s, as the Nazis began their invasion of the country. The author lost her life at Auschwitz in 1942, before completing the five-part work.

Adult Nonfiction

■ Julie Phillips documents the life of a science-fiction writer who hid her identity, in *James Tiptree Jr.: The Double Life of Alice B. Sheldon*.

■ *About Alice* is humorist Calvin Trillin's touching tribute to his wife Alice, who died of lung cancer on Sept. 11, 2001.

■ Ayaan Hirsi Ali, a Somali-born member of the Dutch Parliament who faced death threats following her collaboration on a film about domestic violence, discusses her struggle with her Muslim faith, in *Infidel*.

■ Rhonda Byrne brings together the fragments of "a great secret," culled from literature and philosophies around the globe, to create *The Secret*, a bestseller that emphasizes the power of thought and visualization.

—Karol Barske, Noe Valley Voice staff

Children's Fiction

■ Joe and Gram work their vegetable patch through all the seasons and gather the bounty in Kathy Henderson's *And the Good Brown Earth*, a lovely paean to nature and fellowship. *Ages 4 to 7.*

■ Despite the big messes that result from the three little dragons' efforts to bake a cake and put on a magic show, all ends well in *Happy Birthday, Good Knight*, a beginning reader by Shelley Moore Thomas, illustrated by Jennifer Plecas. *Ages 5 to 7.*

■ Grandpa Spanielson spins a wild tall tale about battling *The Octopus* to entertain Barney, who has the chickenpox, in Denys Cazet's comically illustrated reader. *Ages 6 to 8.*

■ How does 8-year-old Rose avert Caddy's marriage at the altar? Read Hilary McKay's *Caddy Ever After*, the fourth book in a series about the artistic, fascinating Casson family and their friends. The earlier titles are *Saffy's Angel*, *Indigo's Star*, and *Permanent Rose*. *Ages 10 to 14.* (Recommended by Sharon Dezurick, Children's Librarian, Mission Branch Library.)

■ The dream-giver, named "Littlest," nurtures and strengthens an angry boy and an elderly woman and thereby counteracts the destructive actions of the Sinistees, in Lois Lowry's novel, *Gossamer*. *Ages 10 and older.* (Recommended by Carol Small, Head Librarian, Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library.)

Children's Nonfiction

■ Ms. Frizzle and her students journey back in time to meet some famous scientists to learn how they worked and to gain inspiration for their own experiments, in *The Magic School Bus and the Science Fair Expedition*, written by Joanna Cole, illustrated by Bruce Degen. *Ages 6 to 9.*

—Pam Ow, Children's Librarian, Eureka Valley-Harvey Milk Memorial Branch Library

LIBRARY EVENTS

Tuesday Is Song and Story Time

■ You and your baby or toddler will enjoy song, rhymes, and finger play at the 10:15 a.m. *lapsits*, held on Tuesdays, April 3, 10, 17, and 24, at Bethany United Methodist Church, 1268 Sanchez St. *Preschool story time*, for children ages 3 to 5, follows at 11 a.m., also on April 3, 10, 17, and 24.

■ Kids of all ages might want to check out the San Francisco Library's *Bookmobile*, parked at 665 Elizabeth Street near Diamond Street on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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April 6 Good Friday April 8 Easter Sunday 11 am
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Good Friday Liturgy 7 pm



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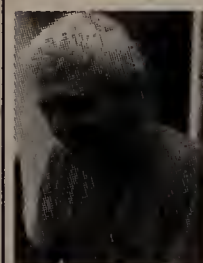
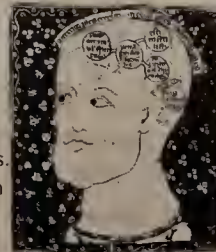
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April 1: "The Uses and Abuses of the Bible in Science and Human Sexuality," with the Rev. Joy Johnson, Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Religion and Ministry, Pacific School of Religion.

May 6: "Christianity and Violence," with Rebecca Gordon, veteran peace and human rights activist, St. John's member, and co-founder of Seminarions for Peace.



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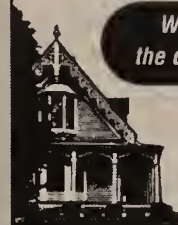
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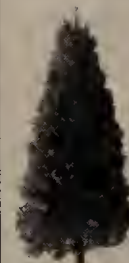
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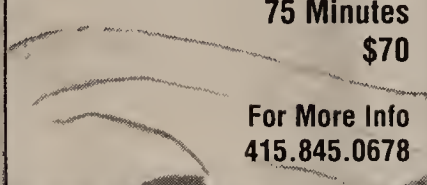
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It's easy. Just type or print the text of your ad, multiply the number of words by **40¢ per word**, and send us a check or money order for the total amount. (Note that a phone number, including area code, counts as one word.) Then mail your ad copy and check, made out to the *Noe Valley Voice*, so that we receive it by the **15th of the month before** the month in which you'd like to advertise. The address is *Noe Valley Voice* Class Ads, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. (Sorry, the *Voice* is unable to accept Class Ads by phone or e-mail.)

10 for 10 discount: The *Noe Valley Voice* publishes 10 months a year. (We're on vacation in January and August.) If you place the *same* class ad in 10 issues, you are entitled to a 10 percent discount. To figure your cost, deduct 10 percent from the total amount due for 10 issues.

The next *Voice* will be the May 2007 issue, distributed in Noe Valley on or before May 1. **The deadline for Class Ads is April 15, 2007.**

Note: The Class Ads are printed in the newspaper and then displayed for one month on our web site: www.noevalleyvoice.com.

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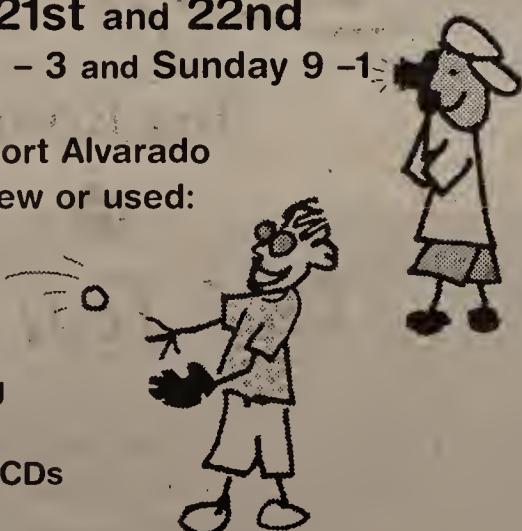
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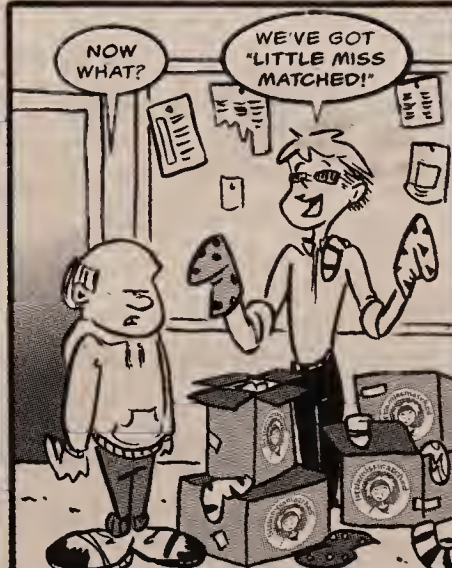
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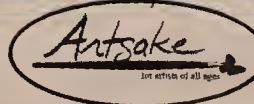
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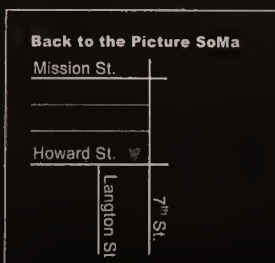
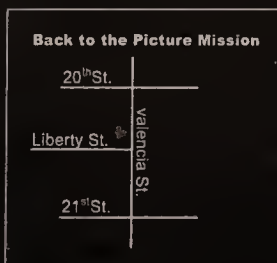
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Quizzically Speaking

By Mazook

THE ANSWER MAN: Last month, we left you with some Noe riddles to answer. The editorial staff reports that absolutely no one was able to answer all the questions correctly. Oh, well. Here are the questions again, and the answers:

1. *What was Star Magic first called when it opened on the corner of 24th and Noe in 1979 (actually, Christmas season 1978)?* Gifts of the Magi. In 1979, the store moved to 4026 24th Street, where Bliss Bar is now. Star Magic shone for nearly 20 years, till 1998.

2. *Where did the Noe Theater once stand?* Where the building is that now houses Just for Fun, across from Herb's Fine Foods.

3. *What was Herb's Fine Foods called when it first opened in 1943?* "X the Noe," because it was a soda fountain directly across from the Noe Theater. It was opened in 1943 by Cyril Saunders, who sold it to Herb Gaines in 1945. In 1953, Gaines changed the establishment's name to his own.

4. *What is Noe Valley's longest-running business, opening in 1888?* That would be Drewes Market, located at 1706 Church, at 29th Street.

5. *Where was a Bakers of Paris once located in Downtown Noe Valley?* Right next to Herb's, where Ambiance now resides. Bakers of Paris opened its Noe Valley branch in 1982 and closed 16 years later.

6. *What's the oldest house in Noe Valley? When was it built?* The oldest house in Noe Valley was constructed in 1869 and is now located at 3780 23rd Street. Its original location was 1081-85 Church Street, but it was moved in 1900, when Church Street was graded.

7. *Where in Noe Valley is the second steep-*

est hill in San Francisco? That would be 22nd Street, from Vicksburg to Church Street. It has a 38-degree grade, second only to Filbert Street between Hyde and Leavenworth streets (39 degrees).

8. *On which corner is the house that former mayor "Sunny Jim" Rolph built for his mistress back in 1929?* That would be the Tudor mansion on the northeast corner of 21st and Sanchez streets.

9. *Where does Upper Noe Valley end and the Fairmount begin?* Too simple—Fairmount is on the south side of 30th Street, Noe Valley on the north.

10. *Who was Elizabeth Street named after?* She was John M. Horner's wife. Horner was the first developer in Noe Valley. When he originally mapped out our neighborhood, he called 22nd Street John Street, and 23rd Street Horner Street.



RUN SMOKEY RUN: More than 50 members and friends of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association took a trip to Bay Meadows Racetrack on

Sunday, March 11, to see our new hometown favorite, Smokey Stover, race to victory in the Breeders' Cup Sprint. Smokey Stover is a 4-year-old gelding owned by 24th Street's resident icon, Twin Peaks Properties proprietor Harry Aleo.

Scott Ostler reported on the race in the *Chronicle* on Monday the 12th: "Even though he got a quick jump, he had to maneuver through plenty of traffic. But he's fast, cool, and determined. He found holes, sprinted through them, and headed hard for the finish line. We're not talking about Smokey Stover, the nation's sprint sensation. We're talking about Harry J. Aleo, Smokey Stover's 87-year-old owner. Seconds after Aleo's new wonderhorse smoked a four-horse field Sunday at Bay Meadows, Harry was in full stride." To the winner's circle, that is.

The victory was Smokey's sixth in 10 races. "And he's come in second the other four times," says Aleo. "He was rated the number-one sprinter in the U.S. by the Daily Racing Form."

Next up for Smokey, his owner says, is the April 7 Potrero Grande Breeders' Cup Handicap at Santa Anita, with a purse of \$200,000. The race is a 6 1/2-furlong sprint.

Oh, and all those Noe Valleyans who went to Bay Meadows and bet on Aleo's horse were rewarded with \$2.40 on their \$2 bet, except Aleo himself, who was rewarded with \$55,000 in prize money. In the horseracing world, that just about covers the expense of transportation and meals for the next race.



STRUMMING IN THE STREET: Tully's Coffee got a little bit country on the afternoon of Saturday, March 10, as Belle Monroe (of Belle Monroe & Her Brewglass Boys) and members of the Tie-One-

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



On March 11, more than 50 Noe Valley neighbors turned out for the Noe Valley Merchants Association "Day at the Races" at Bay Meadows Racetrack. Smokey Stover, the nation's sprint sensation, owned by Harry Aleo of Noe Valley, won the featured race with room to spare, thrilling the hometown crowd. This winner's circle photo shows jockey Aaron Gryder astride Smokey Stover, as well as Harry Aleo (in the cowboy hat on the right) and his happy Noe Valley fans.

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RUMORS

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Ons played outside the café for an appreciative crowd of strollers and coffee drinkers.

Monroe says she and her group came out to play because of the balmy weather, and were generously rewarded by a guitar case full of bills. If you want to see Belle and the Boys, they will be playing for free on April 14 at the Riptide on Taraval and the Great Highway.

Upper Noe Neighbors held its own party on March 29 at the 30th Street Senior Center. Called "Last of Our Teenage Years," the bash, in the words of UNN president Vicki Rosen, was "to celebrate 19 years of trying to make our part of Noe Valley better, and to thank our friends and neighbors for all of their support."

Appetizers and desserts from La Méditerranée were served, and dance music was provided by Upper Noe deejay Denise Dunne. After the party, the Neighbors got down to the serious biz of nominating club officers.

☎ ☎ ☎

A GRAND OPENING PARTY has been slated for mid-April for the new store that popular local jewelry designer Gilbertina Guarini and husband Bruno Guarini are opening at 4068 24th Street, in the space formerly occupied by their shop Cottage Industry.

Bruno and Gilbertina have spent the last several months selling the Cottage Industry inventory and remodeling the store to have a fresh look and a garden in the back with trees, fountains, and stone Buddhas. It will be called Qoio, and will be an expansion of the tiny Qoio jewelry shop and studio they currently own across

from Bell Market.

Gilbertina says the burgundy velvet curtains that have been draped over the windows at the new place will be lifted soon. "We are going to quietly open the store in the beginning of April...and then post an invitation [on the front of the store] to the neighborhood to join us at the store for a grand opening with food and beverages."

The Guarinis, who live on 24th Street with their two daughters, Natalie and Kirsten, will keep the small studio space, which is below street level under Artsake. "I have been in that studio for almost 10 years," says Gilbertina. "I really like the space and I just don't want to give it up yet."

As you Qoio fans know, each of Guarini's designs is unique, and she says her most popular jewelry pieces these days are the "wire-works" necklaces. "I am seeing a lot of girls coming in and picking out these kinds of necklaces to wear to their school proms."

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THAT EMPTY FEELING: If you reread the March 2006 Rumors (which you can do at www.noevalleyvoice.com), you will see an item stating that the former Mikeytom Market, after three years of lying fallow at Church and Day streets, was rented to an enterprise called Church Day Solutions LLC. The LLC (limited liability company) was going to renovate the place, obtain a beer and wine license, and open a restaurant featuring California cuisine.

Well, now that the paper covering the storefront windows has fallen down, everybody can see that nothing has happened in the past year. Evidently, the LLC ran into some problems whose solutions eluded them.

The building owner, Peter Kung, says the space will be for rent again soon. Court records indicate that there is cur-

rently an action pending by Kung to evict the LLC, which apparently has not officially vacated the storefront.

Kung also put to rest the rumor that Chow restaurant had plans to open in the space. "None of those rumors are true, although I wish they were," says Kung.

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CELEBRATING 20 YEARS in Noe Valley are Danny Forchione and Tom DiSerio, who opened Andiamo Gourmet Deli on the northeast corner of Diamond and Elizabeth on April 17, 1987.

"We took over Nuccio Deli," says DiSerio, "and before that it used to be known for many years as Kelleher's Market and was [distinctly Irish]."

Forchione and DiSerio live in Diamond Heights and attribute their store's longevity to the steady clientele they've developed over the years. "Contractors and construction workers who come to the neighborhood on jobs somehow wound up coming here to get lunch," says DiSerio, "and after they moved on to jobs in other neighborhoods, they still come back here."

Andiamo's most popular lunches are the meatball sandwich, lasagna, and split-pea soup, he says.

Twenty years is a long time, but DiSerio and Forchione will not be throwing an anniversary party. Instead, they plan to celebrate the milestone by closing the deli for a week and going on a Caribbean cruise.

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RAMP 'N' ROLL: While spiffing up its new Noe Valley office last month for a grand opening on the corner of 24th and Sanchez, Hill & Company learned that its entranceway had caused a bit of a stir with Downtown Noe Valley shoppers and strollers. The real estate firm had made its front door handicapped-accessible by installing a curbed and railed ramp that

sticks out about four feet into the sidewalk.

Hill's resident sales manager, Jamie Howell, acknowledges that the ramp has generated a few gripes, and says, "We are not happy with it either, but the city gave us no choice. We had proposed a less obtrusive ADA-compliant ramp but could not get city approval, so now we are looking for ways to improve the situation."

Howell says they are currently negotiating with San Francisco to get permission to change the ramp's design, maybe even remove the bulky curbs and railing so they don't block the path. They're also considering the addition of benches and plants.

Those of you who have been around the neighborhood for a while probably know that Howell has lived in Noe Valley for the past 40 years, most of them on Clipper Street. Before he got into real estate about 20 years ago, Howell spent 20 years as one of our local rock 'n' roll stars.

In that previous life, Howell played guitar for Tongue and Groove, Hot Tuna, the Buddy Guy Band, and Jimmy Witherspoon. He remembers when Janis Joplin used to live above the laundry on the corner of Noe and 22nd, and Big Brother and the Holding Company used to park their circa 1924 Ford truck on Castro near 22nd. The vehicle had "Overland Freak Express" emblazoned on the side.

Howell also remembers the days when the whole band could be seen waiting in line at Bud's Ice Cream on the corner of Castro and 24th, or if the line was too long, going across the street to Magnolia Thunderpussy's for one of her famous banana splits.

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Contact: Linton Stables, 541-0344, ext. 230
E-mail: cupa@home4us.org
Meetings: Second Thursday of the month, Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

Church Street Professionals

Contacts: Lynn Ingham, 643-5966, or Paula Benton, 248-0235
E-mail: bentonp@sprynet.com
Meetings: Third Monday, every other month. Location varies.

Diamond Heights Community Association

Contact: Betsy Eddy, 239-5776
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529, San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: First Thursday of the month, 7:30 p.m. Call for location.

Dolores Heights Improvement Club

Contact: Amy Powell, 647-4228
Mailing Address: 3732 21st St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Board meetings bimonthly; membership semi-annually. Call for details.

Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)

Contacts: Pat Lockhart, 282-9360; Diane McCarney, 824-0303; or Deanna Mooney, 821-4045
Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Call for details.

East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club

Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753
Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Irregular, call to confirm.

Eureka Valley Promotion Association

Contact: Lion Barnett, 255-3624
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14137, San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Third Thursday of the month (except December), Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

Fair Oaks Neighbors

Contact: Joyce Kurtz, 401-6362
Mailing Address: 261 Fair Oaks St., San Francisco, CA 94110

MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

Meetings: Call for information. The annual Fair Oaks Street Fair is always held the day before Mother's Day.

Friends of Dolores Park Playground

Contact: Eli Merritt, 415-285-3774
E-mail: emerr@earthlink.net
Mailing Address: 3786 20th St., San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: E-mail for information on advocacy meetings and social events for kids

Friends of Glen Canyon Park

Contact: Richard Craib, 648-0862
Mailing Address: 140 Turquoise Way, San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Call for details.

Friends of Noe Courts Playground

Contact: Laura Norman
E-mail: lauranor@yahoo.com
Mailing Address: c/o Friends of Noe Valley, P.O. Box 460953, San Francisco, CA 94146
Meetings: E-mail for dates and times.

Friends of Noe Valley (FNV)

Contact: Richard May
E-mail: rambooks@pacbell.net
Web site: www.friendsofnoevalley.com
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 460953, San Francisco, CA 94146
Meetings: First or second Thursday of the month (call or e-mail to confirm), at St. Philip's Parish Hall, 725 Diamond St.

Friends of On Lok's 30th Street Senior Center

Contact: Marianne Hampton, 601-7845
Mailing Address: 225 30th St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Occasional. Call for details.

Friends of Upper Noe Recreation Center

Contact: Christina Goebel, 826-7772
E-mail: christina_goebel@yahoo.com
Meetings: Call or e-mail for dates and times.

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association

Contact: John Barbey, 695-0990
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 192114, San Francisco, CA 94119
Meetings: Quarterly. Call for details.

Noe Strolls "Playgroup on Wheels"

Contact: noestrolls@aol.com
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Noe Valley Association—Community Benefit District

Contact: Debra Niemann, nemo@rcn.com
Dispatch: To report spills, debris, or garbage on 24th Street, call 559-8492.

Noe Valley Democratic Club

Contact: Andy Fleischman, 641-5838
Meetings: Third Wednesday of the month; Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., 7:30 p.m.

Noe Valley Farmers' Market

Saturdays, 8 a.m. to noon, on 24th between Sanchez and Vicksburg Street
Contact: Paula Benton, 248-1332
Mailing Address: 4104 24th St., #401, San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Second Thursday of the month, Noe Valley Ministry (co-sponsor), 1021 Sanchez St., 8 p.m.

Noe Valley Library Campaign

Contacts: Kim Drew, 643-4695, kkdrew@yahoo.com; Marian Chatfield-Taylor, 626-7512, ext. 103
Mailing Address: Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, 391 Grove St., San Francisco, CA 94102
Meetings: Call for information.

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association (NVMPA)

Contacts: Diane Barrett, 647-2116, or Teresa Gay, 336-6304
E-mail: info@noevalleymerchants.com; register at www.noevalleymerchants.com.
Meetings: Last Wednesday of the month.
E-mail for location and time.

Noe Valley Parent Network

An e-mail resource network for parents
Contact: Mina Kenvin
E-mail: minaken@gmail.com

Noe Valley Preparedness Committee

Contact: Mindy Kershner, 377-3890
E-mail: mindytower@aol.com
Meetings: Call for details.

Outer Noe Valley Merchants

Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500
Mailing Address: 294 29th St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Call for details.

San Jose/Guerrero Coalition to Save Our Streets

Contact: Don Oshiro, 285-8188
E-mail: contact@sanjoseguerrero.com
Web site: www.sanjoseguerrero.com
Meetings: See web site.

See Jane Run Running/Walking Club

Contact: Lori Shannon, 401-8338
Mailing Address: 3870 24th Street, San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Sundays, 10 a.m. (Runners meet at See Jane Run to pick up the 5K run/walk route. Info? www.SeeJaneRunSports.com.)

Southwest Mission Neighborhood Association (SWMNA)

Boundaries: 24th Street to Cesar Chavez and Fair Oaks to Mission
Contact: Lori Oshiro, Secretary
E-mail: lori@tail-wagging.com
Web site: www.tail-wagging.com
Meetings: E-mail for information.

Upper Noe Neighbors

Contact: Vicki Rosen, 285-0473
Mailing Address: 169 Valley St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Last Thursday of the month (call to confirm), 30th Street Senior Center, 225 30th St., 7:30 p.m.



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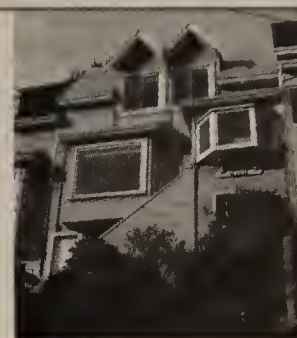
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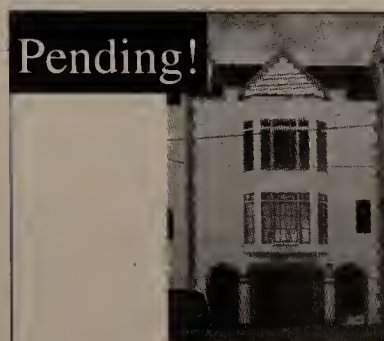
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THE NOE TRUTHY VOICE

Group Makes Sidewalks 1-Way To Calm Traffic

By Kate Crasher

There are changes afoot in Downtown Noe Valley, thanks to the neighborhood's newest planning organization, the Urban Village People (UVP). Starting Sunday, April 1, the sidewalks of 24th Street, from Dolores to Diamond, will be divided into lanes specifically designated to improve the flow of pedestrians, stroller pushers, bicyclists, dog walkers, and people standing still.

Urban Village People Vice President Mia Culpa came up with the plan during the Christmas holidays. "I often experience a major delay on my walk to Starbucks when a double-wide stroller or an oldster with a cane blocks my path," says Culpa. "I brought this to the attention of our membership, and we considered our options. At first, we thought about banishing certain groups from the sidewalk—saunterers, window-shoppers, or the wheelchair-bound—but shop owners put the kibosh on that. They want people to notice their displays."

The solution, according to the UVP plan, is lanes painted on the sidewalk, and a signage system on every block to show lane-use allotments. "This will make it so simple," smiles Culpa, a former ruler. "Everybody will know where they belong."

The sidewalk on the north side of 24th Street will be designated one-way westbound from 6 to 9 a.m., and 3 to 6 p.m. During these hours, the lane closest to shops will be earmarked for slow foot traffic and merging pedestrians emerging from stores. Next will be a fast-track diamond lane for power walkers (open to anyone who can keep up a 3 mph clip) and middle-school students. A wider third lane will be the designated sidewalk bicycle lane, which will include skateboards, shopping carts, and Segway People Movers. Additionally, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., the third lane will be



Photo by Ruby Rippey-Tourk

Help Us Pick a Winner!

Last month, we asked our readers to come up with the perfect caption for this photo of two celebrities spotted on 24th Street in February. Your responses were so clever, our judges were unable to settle on just one. However, we narrowed the field to three. Which is your favorite? (Write editor@naughtvalleyvoice.com.) The top votegetter in our photo caption contest will receive a year's supply of cat food.

1. *Newsom: "When's Dufty gonna get here? I'm tired of talking to this delusional homeless guy."*
2. *While Supervisor Bevan Dufty shows Mayor Gavin Newsom his undercover approach to Project Homeless Connect, Newsom is momentarily distracted by the Xenu spaceship landing on Twin Peaks.*
3. *While Supervisor Bevan Dufty recounts the Real Foods saga, Mayor Gavin Newsom suddenly remembers that he needs to hire a new appointments secretary.*

shared with stroller/toddlers (up to triple-wide prams permitted) and groups of more than four people who want to walk arm-in-arm. The last lane, closest to the street, will accommodate dog walkers and merchants' impromptu sidewalk sales. For the one-way eastbound south side of 24th Street, the order of lanes will be reversed, with the exception of a lane added between the second and third for exit and entry from the Farmers' Market.

The 24th Street thoroughfare will also get a makeover, Culpa says. "We're planting new 'bulb-outs' on the bus stop corners, and also growing kale and magic bean seedlings in box planters in the cen-

ter of 24th Street, as a traffic-calming measure. Our ultimate plan is to reroute all vehicle traffic to Elizabeth and Jersey streets, although drivers can still leave their cars at both the Presbyterian and the Jesse Memorial parking lots."

If residents and merchants have concerns about safety, Culpa says, they should give the new sidewalk a trial run before bringing their children, pets, or large purses. "We're encouraging pedestrians to look both ways and maybe even give a little whistle before they enter the sidewalk. Also, school students have

CONTINUED IN TRAFFIC COURT

Noe Says Bye to 'Valley' in Name

By Pluto Chavez

Noe Valley, the hottest location in San Francisco's neighborhood pantheon, was stripped of its geological status at the Feb. 31 meeting of the National Organization of Scientists from Earth (NOSE).

The prestigious group voted 423 to 2 to remove the word "valley" from the neighborhood's name.

"Valley? Not hardly," said Burgess Shale, head of the NOSE Definitions Committee. "If you look at San Francisco's topographical maps, the terrain is much more like a gorge, dale, dell, or maybe a basin if you stand off and squint. But a valley? No way!"

Shale's organization elected to classify Noe as a "hollow," defined as a small shallow depression between two hilly bumps. But the redesignation didn't come easy. In a series of earlier votes, the astronomers narrowly rejected the names "vale," "ravine," "gully," and "yuppie enclave." The term "hole" was shot down, too.

Changing "valley" to "hollow" has already caused repercussions in the merchants community. Geico Caveman Ugh Rothchild, who has an office at the top of 24th Street, strenuously objected to the new label, arguing that "people in places like Polk Gulch might mispronounce it and call Noe a 'holler'. It's bad enough that we have stores here that sell quilts and handcrafts and frogs and things."

Other stores, such as Noe Valley Cream Puffs, complained that converting to "hollow" would have an adverse impact on their business.

A spokesperson from Noe Valley Weenies said the group would ignore the scientists' vote. "We're the Noe Valley Weenies, not the Noe Hollow Weenies."

J-Church Hostage Crisis Over

By Kay Ingleside

During the early rush-hour commute on April 1, a horde of frustrated J-Church riders took Transit Director Lewis "Golf-cart" Libby hostage near the 30th Street car turnaround. They demanded he apologize for a "ridiculously" long delay the previous night, asked him to add an extra hour to each of their transfers, and then tied him to a tree.

After fuming silently for several minutes, Libby cleared his throat and gave a heartfelt apology. "If the wait was a problem for you, then I guess I'm sorry. But since I have a car, I can't possibly imagine the frustration you've been feeling, can I?"

However, he refused to budge on the transfer issue. "Two hours should be plenty."

Mollified, the protesters released him and headed back to the bus stop.

But before Libby could drive away, Muni patron Winona Rider ran after him and shouted an ultimatum: "Next time this happens, I won't wait 10 hours for the train to move. I'll walk out those doors a lot sooner!"

Noe Resident Is Google's Sole Employee

By Annette Flicks

You've shared a table with him at Miss Millie's, or waited behind him in line at Rite Aid. Or maybe you've watched him down his fourth martini at Panos' Labyrinth. But you might not have known that the man on the bar stool is the same person you communicate with dozens of times a day.

Yes, Guy Google, the researcher who quickly and efficiently finds the answers to everybody's questions at Google.com, has been living in Noe Valley for almost nine years, in a room above Tubbey's Hardware.

We caught up with Guy last month while he was having a massage at Elisa's Health Spa on 24th Street. Our interview

Dear Editor
This is the zodiac speaking
Up to the end of March I have killed
7 stores in Noe Valley. I am the one
who killed the olive oil store. I hate
olive oil. Also A Girl and her Dog.
The clothes were too small. Be sure
You print this in the paper or I
shall do my thing. Miss Millie is
not safe. Ha ha.

A E N ⊕ ⊗ K ⊗ M ⊗ L N A M

Me - 7
Noe Valley - 0

Crime Alert: Zodiac Killer Targets Stores. On April 1, 2007, the Voice received this rather ominous missive in the mail. Although the editorial "we" were relieved that there was no specific threat to our newspaper, it did seem like the information should be passed on.

49ers to Build Stadium in Upper Noe

By Beau Linball

Faced with mounting resistance to his plan to move the 49ers to Santa Clara, team owner John Pork has made a deal with San Francisco Mayor Gavin New-som to locate a new \$800 billion football stadium in the one-block Upper Noe Park & Rec Center at 30th and Day streets.

"It's an ideal location," said Jennifer Siebel, newly hired assistant to the mayor. "It's located at the intersection of three major Muni lines—the 24, 26, and the J-Church—plus, it's near enough to Glen Park BART that drunk fans can stagger home."

Siebel said District 8 Supervisor Dufty Baker had assured her there is an abundance of on-street parking in the area.

Meanwhile, excitement is high at 49ers headquarters in Santa Anita.

"The timing for this deal is perfect," said Niners spokesperson Ann Coulter, who also is the offensive coordinator. "Since the rec center is already in the middle of a renovation, it'll be easy for us to throw in a few skyboxes and a Jumbo-Tron. And given how we've played the last three seasons, the seating for the little-league baseball diamond is ideally suited for our current attendance levels."

Coulter admits, however, that "no project is perfect, of course. We've had to make some compromises. For instance, the team's end zones have to be shared with the dog run that is currently circling the park. This is not a big deal, though, since the 49ers don't go there much anyway during regular season games."

Niners tackle Itzhak Perlman agrees that having to share with the dog run will be no sweat for the Red and Gold.

"It won't bother our wide receivers," said Perlman. "They'll just put on their four-inch Teflon cleats when they get near the goalposts."

But NFL referee Al "Blind Zebra" Johnson is grumbling. "Along with all the other yellow flags, quarters, lipstick, and scorecard stuff we have to carry in our pockets on game day, now we have to carry plastic bags too? Give me a break."

As for the name of the new stadium, Coulter says it's still up in the air. But the team is toying with an idea that should please fans young and old: Peezar Stadium.



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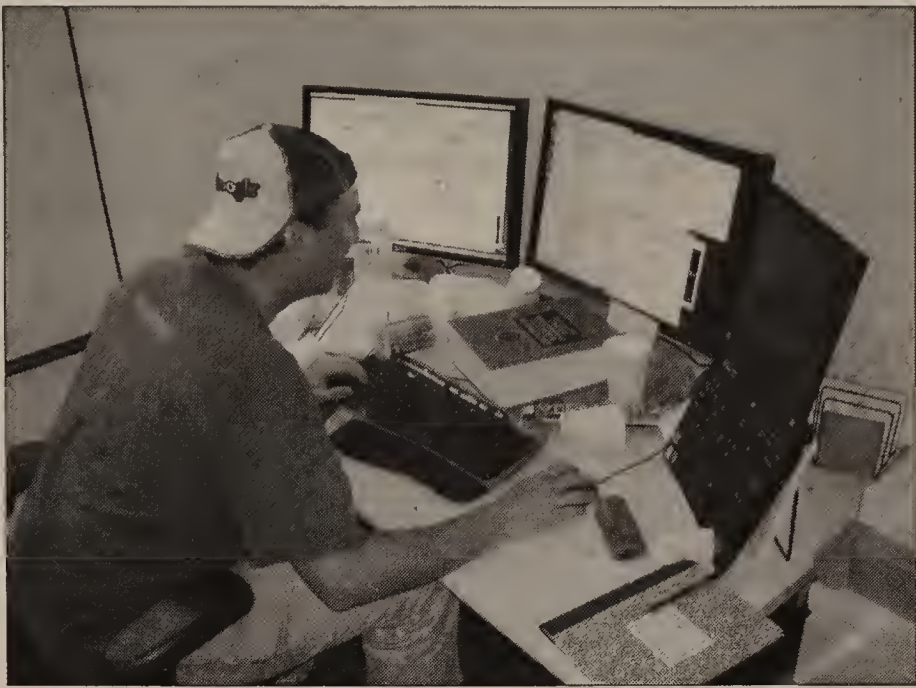
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Noe Nits



Easy to Care For

Each little egg grows up to be a louse with a personality all its own!



They Call Him 'Mr. Google.' Ever-alert and ready to search, Google's only employee takes on even the most obscure key words you can throw at him. With his command of the mouse and his legendary ability to multitask, he can easily work on 12 entries at a time. It's a rare occurrence when he has to type in "404: Not Found." Photo courtesy Gaggle Inc.

Google Researcher Loves His Job

CONTINUED 1-10 OF 6,131

covered too many topics to include them all here. (The questions we asked resulted in 1,036 answers in just under 2.01 seconds.) But we thought you'd enjoy seeing the highlights, sorted by relevance. For the complete interview, go to www.dontaskyahoo.com.

Voice: The *Voice* has learned that you're the one who looks up all the words, finds the movie reviews, helps us get facts on...well, just about everything. It's such a big job—how do you do it?

Guy: Actually, I'm pretty well-read, and I'm a natural at languages. I also type about 80 words a minute.

Voice: Do you get a lot of requests for information from Noe Valley residents? What about?

Guy: Yeah, I get a lot of questions looking for safety comparisons between Volvos and Subarus. Sometimes I refer them to a site about Chevy Suburbans, just for fun.

Voice: What are your hours?

Guy: Only when the Internet is open.

Voice: Do you prefer questions or queries?

Guy: You know, I would like someone to write in with an answer every now and then.

Voice: What's the dumbest question

you ever received?

Guy: Sometimes people ask me what's for dinner. How should I know?

Voice: Have you ever been stumped? What couldn't you find?

Guy: Yeah. The Real Food Company.

Voice: You always seem to question our spelling? Isn't that kind of rude?

Guy: Listen, if you're getting about a thousand hits a day for "babby strollers"...

Voice: If I ask you something about beer, do I have to be over 21?

Guy: If the typing seems slow enough for someone over 35, I usually don't ask for ID.

Voice: What do you do when you don't have to look anything up? Do you do sudokus?

Guy: I'm sorry, I can only answer one question at a time.

Voice: Why doesn't your logo have little eyes in the O's of gOOgle?

Guy: We don't want people to know we can see them through their computer screen—it might scare them.

Voice: Did you ever consider calling the site Goggle or Gaggle?

Guy: Excellent! I now have a new answer when people ask me for the dumbest question I've ever received.

Voice: Our publisher has a question: Are you really a guy?

Guy: Yes! Can't you see my attachment?

Underground Mall Just for Grownups

By a Fifth Grader

Not every Noe Valleyan has 2.3 kids. In fact, some childless local residents would like to avoid having any youngsters around them at all—and the Noe Shoppers Association is listening.

Thanks to a generous grant from Friends with Money, construction is about to begin on California's first kid-free underground shopping mall, located underneath 24th Street, from Sanchez to Noe Street.

"We're tired of living in a nanny state," said Shirley Barron, association board president and chief organizer of the campaign.

Dubbed "Valley Downs," the mall will feature adult-friendly businesses, including Acquired Taste, an offal-vegetarian restaurant; the military supplier Subs Inc.; and 16 bars, including the Drop Inn, Hops Well, Rose Quarts, Blitz Bar, and Beer Belly. Noe's X-rated establishments, such as Male Boxes Etc. and Under the Covers Books, will also move their operations underground.

The development will have its share of high-end shops, too. "I'll be so relieved not to have to worry about breakage anymore," said Victor Mature, owner of Just for Fragile.

Minors will not be permitted in the underground mall, and monitors will be checking IDs at all entry points, to enforce the over-21 policy.

Unfortunately, Cole Burnen, a long-time resident of subterranean Noe Valley, is being forced to move. "They're just doing this because I'm a miner. I keep saying they're spelling it wrong, but nobody listens."

According to a notice posted on 24th Street, mall construction will require demolition of most buildings on the block, and businesses should expect an increase in noise, dust, and parking tickets. The only store that has promised to remain open is Real Food Company.

Due to a case of confusion, Chocolate Coveralls and Oceanfront Maltballs, two above-ground shops that traded places last fall, have decided to switch storefronts again.

In a related story, the Shoppers Association has petitioned the city to allow three more panhandlers at the entrance to the mall, near Bull Market. (Currently, 24th Street is zoned for 10.)

The association also announced plans to dig up and restore an old clipper ship that it discovered in the course of surveying the caverns under 24th Street.

Says Barron, "In the event that global warming predictions are correct, Noe Valley will be a water world soon enough. Then we'll be very thankful for this ship. It will be our own version of Noah's ark, but we'll only need to round up one of a kind."

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The Rags to Realtor to Riches Story of Four Guys from the Wrong Side of Noe Valley

HEAR HITS LIKE: Big Sales Producers Don't Cry / Walk Like an Agent / Can't Take My Lien Off of You / Balloon Mortgage Payment Go Away (I'm No Good for It) / Oh, What a Fixer-Upper / Let's Hang On To What We Got (The Seller's Remorse Song)

The Noe Truthy Voice April 2007

Nutrition Facts

Serving Size: 3 pages (28g)
Articles Per Serving: About 7

| | | | |
|---------------|------|-------------------|--------|
| Calories | 100 | Calories from Fat | 90 |
| Saturated Fat | 12g | Transy Fat | 14g |
| Cholesterol | 0 mg | Cats | 9 lbs |
| Dietary Fiber | 5g | Sugars | 2,443g |

INGREDIENTS: EDITORIAL BEEF KAROL BARSKE, SALLY SMITH, CONTRIBUTING FACTORS HEIDI ANDERSON, JOHN HOHULIN, BARB KONECKY, DOUG KONECKY, ELLIOT POGER, JACK TIPPLE, KAREN TOPAKIAN, KATE VOLKMAN, MAY CONTAIN SOUR CRÈME AND ONION POTATO CHIPS AS A PRESERVATIVE.

Zoe and Sebastian: A Democratic Couple Split Down the Middle

By Al Gore

Zoe and Sebastian may share a mortgage, a Toyota Scion, and a bulldog. But that doesn't mean they share a presidential candidate. And in Noe Valley, they're not alone—more than three-quarters of the largely Democratic households of what has been called "Looney Liberal Valley" are now living in houses divided against themselves.

Illinois Senator Barack Obama's announcement of his candidacy for president—on the heels of New York Senator Hillary Clinton's declaration of the same—has plunged this normally quiet (except for squealing train wheels) neighborhood into fear, suspicion, and mistrust. Residents of Noe Valley are choos-

ing up sides with a vehemence not seen in America since the 2004 presidential election split the country into red states and blue states (or, for that matter, since the Civil War's blue Union soldiers fought against those gray French-consorting, slave-owning traitors).

Even that most sacred of bonds—the Tenancy-in-Common—is not immune to this wrenching force. When Zoe and Sebastian bought their duplex together at 542 Clipper Street for \$1.8 million in 2005, they thought that if anything would cause difficulty in their partnership, it would be Zoe's soul-crushing depression or Sebastian's unresolved Tetris addiction.

But in the end, it was politics that would erode the foundation of trust that underlies their 3,100-square-foot duplex.

"We can't even be in the same room anymore," laments Zoe. "At the last homeowners' association meeting, Sebastian invoked Article 32(b) of our TIC agreement to make me remove the 'Hillary or Else '08' sign from our window. I was so mad I erased the Obama speech he'd taped from the Democratic Convention."

In fact, Clipper Street is the front line in this battle for neighborhood supremacy. Zoe and other Clinton partisans know that the northern half of Noe Valley does not welcome their presence.

"The all-night Obama rallies at 23rd and Dolores didn't bother me," says Zoe. "but now with the armed voter-registration hockade I can't even go to 24th Street during the day."

Similarly, Obama fans cannot safely venture into the Deep South regions of the neighborhood. Sebastian, carrying his "Barack Steady" tote bag, was violently pelted with sustainably farmed arugula while walking the bulldog near Café Edwards last week. "The worst part," Sebastian recounts with moist eyes, "was that Mr. Muffins had to see that."

Zoe and Sebastian's last names are being withheld to protect their privacy.



Fronds of Noe Valley. Since the city has decided it has too many cans, bottles, and plastic forks, the recycling bins on the top of 24th Street garbage cans have been converted into planters for *Palma Topheavium*, a palm tree known for its nonexistent root system. Photo by Jack Russell



And Bingo Is Our Game. Here's your ticket to the latest neighborhood craze, Noe Valley Bingo. All you have to do is go outside, spot five items in a row—vertical, horizontal, or diagonal—and be the first to yell "Bingo!" and claim your prize. For rules and prize descriptions, go to www.b-word.com.

Card by a dog named...

Beagle Hounds Quarterback Smith

At noon on April 1, Peezar Stadium was closed off with a police cordon, and the future of football in Noe Valley was looking grim. Following yesterday's clash between the 49ers, who are now based at their new Sanchez and Day Street stadium (see story, previous page), and the neighborhood dog owners who have used the dog run surrounding the football field, all games are suspended pending an investigation of the melee.

It all started in the third quarter of the 8 a.m. 49ers vs. Detroit Devil Dogs game, when a pug named Henry broke away from his dog walker and jumped on Pitsy, a bulldog-shih-tzu mix. The hybrid, owned by Emilio Pucci of 23rd Street, retaliated with a yip and rolled downhill onto the Peezar field. On the way, Pitsy's leash tangled in the legs of a weimariner, an Irish setter, and Quarterback Alex Smith, who was then dragged toward the Devil Dogs' end zone, nearly causing a safety and two points for the other side.

Meanwhile, Hambone, a Beagle with a

pendant for pigskin, took off to join the fracas, followed by his owner, Greg Lablover, who was instantly tackled by 49er cheerleader and special teams player Debra Neeman. When cops finally separated the pile, Smith had a separated shoulder, Lablover was unconscious, Neeman's jeans were torn, and Hambone had swallowed the football.

—Fred Bassett

COLANDER

April 1: Celebrate the YEAR OF THE BORE at an interminable panel discussion facilitated by Gabby Hayes. 8 pm on. Wordigo, 451 Blather St.

April 1: Deadline for submitting DNA samples to determine paternity of Anna Nicole Smith's baby. Midnight. Bahamas. 1-800-IDOL.

April 1: The Noe Valley OCD SUPPORT GROUP hosts a lecture, "Making a List, Checking It Twice," followed by a demonstration of proper handwashing techniques; tissues and Purell provided. 8 pm; check your watches with the giant clock at 26th and Sanchez, southeast corner, in the window to the right of the entrance door, if you're facing the shop. Call for exact location, 1-800-OB-SESS.

April 31: In a rare Bay Area appearance, Osama Bin Laden gives a SLIDE LECTURE, "I Am Not the 2008 Democratic Candidate from Illinois," followed by a potluck jihad; bring your own fatwa. 8 pm. Mullah Times Bookstore, 8888 Valencia St. www.osama2008.com.

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April 1: The SF International Polish-Uruguayan Film Festival joins forces with the SF International Burnese-Chad Film Festival to showcase their new season of ALL-LATVIAN films. 1-11 pm. Castro's Theatre. www.politurugburchadlatvianintheater.com.

April 2: Hens of Noe Valley hosts a discussion by home economist Sue Traceutical, "They Call It Free Range Chicken, But It Actually Costs Money." 7 pm. That Empty Place, across from Bell Market. 555-EGGS.

April 31: The PROCRASTINATORS of Noe Valley holds its monthly meeting, rescheduled from Jan. 5, Feb. 14, and March 20; begins at 7 pm. Call to confirm. 555-WAIT.

April 3-31: Designs once considered for LGBT banners, including the cloud, the sun, the lightning bolt, and the corkscrew, are on display in "Rainbow FLAGS of Our Fathers." Main Library, Rock Hudson Community Meeting Room, 99 Larkin St. 555-SOGAY.

April 15: CARA BLACKHAWK reads from her French investigative series "The Three Faces of Aimée LeDuck." 6 pm. Mystere Libres, 4199A 24th St.; www.quack.com.

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For Sale: Colorful Noe Valley Nursery School Quilt, created in 2006. Originally found in shopping bag on sidewalk in front of Noe Valley Ministry; barely used. Handmade! Best offer. 555-SWIPE.

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